



Daily Report

East Asia

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Japan

Economic Relations With U.S. at 'Crossroads'

Concessions Seen as Less Likely

952A0036A Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese
3 Oct 94 p 3

[Article by Washington correspondent Michio Shioda: "Avoiding an Immediate Breakdown"; first in a two-part series titled "U.S.-Japan Economic Relations at a Crossroads"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Japan Continues To Say 'No'; U.S. Uneasy About Exchange Rate

After troubled sailing, a breakthrough was finally reached in the stalled U.S.-Japan economic framework talks. Agreements were reached in three of the areas under discussion, including government procurement and "limited sanctions" on auto parts. What have these troubled, 15-month-long talks meant for U.S.-Japan relations?

The framework talks differ from earlier trade negotiations in that Japan kept on saying "no."

This was the second "no." In February 1993, then Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said it to "numerical targets." Since the talks resumed in May, the issue has been "government jurisdiction." Japanese negotiators have said "no" to a number of U.S. demands, saying they were "outside the government's reach."

The main fight was over auto parts. The Clinton administration wanted to add more purchases of foreign-made parts to the "voluntary plan" drafted by Japanese automakers for the Bush administration. Japanese automakers submitted a series of revisions in March, but none of them satisfied the United States.

The talks broke down in February when President Clinton, angered by the lack of results in negotiations over auto parts, indicated the talks had "ruptured." Auto parts were reportedly his sole interest. With cars and auto parts making up 60 percent of the U.S.-Japan trade imbalance, an opening for change had to be created.

Very likely it was President Clinton who gave the word to target auto parts for limited sanctions. On 29 [September], President Clinton called his cabinet aides for an 11th-hour meeting to decide their final tack. The Japanese negotiators, bent on breaking the deadlock over auto parts, were shocked the next day to learn that the U.S. enthusiasm for arriving at a settlement had waned.

International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto proposed to meet the United States part way by easing regulations on Japan's market for auto repair parts. Although U.S. negotiators might have jumped at the offer before, their only response on the 30th was to present a number of stumbling blocks. Clearly, they were no longer interested in settling the issue.

As in the case in February, when the talks ended in a deadlock, negotiators failed in the end to come up with an agreement in the auto and auto parts sector. This time, however, the talks didn't break down for a very simple reason. If they had, the news would have sent a jolt through the exchange market, and both sides would have been hurt. This was the reason for imposing only "limited" sanctions. Even then, the United States was careful to test the market for possible reactions in advance.

In short, the market forced a compromise. Also helping matters, the Japanese side had officially decided on tax cuts beforehand. Treasury Secretary [Lloyd] Bentsen and other macroeconomists in the Clinton administration had also switched to a less aggressive stance. But, clearly, were it not for worries about the exchange rate, the Clinton administration would have been ready to push matters to a showdown.

Stanford University professor Paul Krugman, considered the standard-bearer of modern economics, has criticized those responsible for the administration's economic policy, pointing to the danger in applying the same competitive principle seen in the corporate world to national governments.

Though Krugman's name isn't on this list of economic policy makers, Clinton's name is at the very top. Even within the United States, the administration has been described as "strongly business-oriented." It is an administration whose only concern is said to be "how much money is coming into the cash register."

This approach is behind the difficulties in the recent trade talks. Even though Japanese automakers presented President Bush with a voluntary plan for purchasing more auto parts, they refused in President Clinton's case. For one thing, they may have been concerned about declining profits. A big factor, however, was probably their distrust of the new president.

This situation hasn't basically changed. If the recent trade talks are compared to a company's midyear financial report, then the February breakdown might be likened to an extraordinary loss that has somehow been written off. The company hasn't gotten to the point yet where it is turning a profit. Nor have the talks resulted yet in better U.S.-Japan relations.

Equality in Relationship Sought

952A0036B Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese
4 Oct 94 p 7

[Article by Yoshiyuki Henmi: "Trade Talks Are a Game"; second in a two-part series titled "U.S.-Japan Economic Relations at a Crossroads"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The U.S.-Japan trade talks are a game," asserts a young bureaucrat in the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI]. "We're approaching the final inning," he says. "The results

should be interesting." At the time, negotiators in Washington were getting ready for their final round of talks.

The password among the lead players was "game." Unlike the time when the United States announced it would impose retaliatory sanctions against Japan, citing the U.S.-Japan semiconductor accord, this time—despite the threat of sanctions—the air was clear of the sad heroism of those facing an "economic war." Instead, the question posed by the recent talks was whether or not Japan would turn a corner in its approach to economic diplomacy by treating the United States as it would any other country now that the cold war was over and entering the playing field as an equal partner.

The end of September and 11th-hour negotiations were in progress. A ranking MITI official in the United States put in a call to Keidanren [Japan Federation of Economic Organizations] president Shoichiro Toyoda, chairman of Toyota Motor. "Things are different this time," he reminds him. "It won't do to go along with the additional U.S. demands," he says, referring to the voluntary plan for Japanese automakers to purchase foreign-made parts.

Earlier, U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor had twice called the Washington office of the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association Industry, pressing his point that "the voluntary plan should include additional purchases." The MITI official's call to Toyoda was to remind the top industrial leader that those demands should be rejected. As unusual as it was for a U.S. cabinet member to call the office of a Japanese industrial organization and press for concessions, the MITI official's call was even more so.

Until now, U.S.-Japan relations have been a history of concessions in which all eyes were focused solely on the United States, and administrative guidance was freely resorted to. However, the inauguration of the World Trade Organization next year and the growing emphasis on multilateralism calls for a change. In economic relations, Japan must see the United States as a "playing partner" rather than in the privileged light it has been viewed in the past.

Several signs of this change were evident in the recent economic framework talks. One such sign was the phone call to Toyoda. Again, apart from its direct negotiations with the United States, Japan has also adopted a new multipronged strategy—while appealing to Europe and Asia with regard to problematic U.S. demands, Japan has taken the tack of isolating U.S. hardliners and trying to get U.S. macroeconomists to acknowledge the importance of U.S.-Japan relations.

This was also one of the reasons Hashimoto and Yohei Kono, Liberal Democratic Party vice president and foreign minister, firmly rejected the Finance Ministry proposal to extend tax cuts for two years, citing instead U.S. demands for a three-year extension.

As a result, macroeconomists like Treasury Secretary Bentsen have favorably viewed Japan's tax reform as a way of expanding domestic demand. Bentsen has come out in favor of stressing the importance of the foreign exchange market, whose movements are tied to U.S. interest rates, rather than the trade talks' microeconomic approach to U.S.-Japan relations. Nor has the U.S. Trade Representative [Kantor] been able to ignore the voices of Europe and other Asian countries.

Still, there are doubts as to whether the trade talks can really be developed as a game. If Japan has never asked GATT to mediate complaints about the United States, neither has it ever resorted to retaliatory measures. Even supposing it wanted to take such measures, one of the trump cards in such a game, "the regulatory and legal setup is still inadequate," says a government source. "It wouldn't be possible to put those kind of measures into effect immediately." For Japan to become a full-fledged player, it still has a number of problems to solve.

Republican Victory in U.S. Election Evaluated

OW2411163094 Tokyo SHUKAN DAIYAMONDO in Japanese 26 Nov 94 p 15

[Article by Yoji Fukuyama; from the "Business Inside" column]

[Text] "Since Japan-U.S. relations were not at issue in the elections, there will be no effect on economic relations with Japan." "Since the Republican ranks include many free trade advocates, the results were actually in Japan's favor." The overwhelming victory of the Republican Party in the U.S. midterm elections has evoked an air of optimism among the higher echelons of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Government of Japan.

However, within the U.S. Congress, conditions are in place to compel an overturning of such naively hopeful views. One such factor is the certain appointment of one of those who recommend strong pressure on Japan, Republican Senator Jesse Helms, to the seat of chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"Helms mafia" has become another name for Senator Jesse Helms and his devotees. This is a group comprised of Helms, his staff, and lobbyists, and is known for its active participation in extreme Japan-bashing on the Senate floor from the latter half of the 1980's to the early 1990's under both the Reagan and Bush administrations.

"Toshiba Machine Co., Ltd.'s violation of Cocom [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] restrictions, the involvement of Japanese firms in a chemical weapons factory in Libya, and finally, the FSX controversy, are all reportedly of the devising of the Helms mafia. If a situation arises in which he can berate Japan, this is a man who will scrape the last dregs from the bottom of the barrel" (according to a U.S. watcher positioned in an influential Japanese concern in the United States).

Already, employees stationed in Washington by their home companies in Japan are voicing fear and concern over Senator Helms' appointment as the incoming chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The position may be underestimated in Japan, but the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has extensive powers that include acting as an overseer of U.S. diplomacy and international relations.

Following his appointment as committee chairman, Senator Helms is certain to turn his attention towards filling the position of secretary of state currently held by Warren Christopher, whose replacement is said to be inevitable. Should the rumors of the retirement of Walter Mondale, U.S. ambassador to Japan, prove true, there is a validity to calculations that the next ambassador will almost certainly take a hardline stance against Japan.

There is even concern that the U.S. Department of State, which has for the most part upheld an otherwise unprecedented stance of cooperation toward Japan in its diplomatic overtures, could well deteriorate into an army of Japan bashers.

There is a real possibility that the overly optimistic outlook of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs could result in an uncontrollable situation.

Future Domestic, Foreign Policies Analyzed

OW2411115394 Tokyo FNN Television Network in Japanese 1307 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tokyo FNN Television Network in Japanese at 2307 GMT on 19 November, during its weekly "News 2001" program, carries a 38-minute live roundtable discussion on the formation of a policy advisory group to Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama. Participants include Shusuke Tanaka, acting representative of Sakigake (Harbinger); Seiichiro Saito, professor at Rikkyo University; Jiro Yamaguchi, Hokkaido University professor; and Kenichi Takemura, the program's regular member and political commentator. The program is moderated by FNN announcers Yuji Kuroiwa and Megumi Seki.

Kuroiwa begins the discussions by asking Saito why he joined the so-called "Policy Brain Group 21." Saito says he strongly felt the need to promote political and administrative reforms and to give his professional advice to the prime minister. Tanaka says that he was asked by the prime minister to form an advisory group composed of specialists in different fields. He continues to explain that the prime minister is dead serious about promoting administrative reform. He says: "Generally speaking, there are three things that I want the group to do. The first thing is, as Mr. Saito has said earlier, administrative reform. The second thing is that I want the them to have thorough discussions on devising new economic policies. We cannot foresee the economy so that I want them to

examine industrial stagnation and the uncertain employment situation. The third thing is so-called international contribution in non-military areas. When I was involved with this program last time, I called it contributions for coexistence. I want them to come up with clear policies to guide us." Yamaguchi introduces some concrete measures, including the disclosure of information and giving more power to local governments, needed for administrative reform.

Tanaka says: "It is wrong to ask the administrators to promote administrative reform. It is like asking a patient to perform an operation by himself." In this way, he calls for the prime minister's strong leadership.

On easing government regulations to activate the economy and to narrow price differentials that exist between Japan and other developed countries, Takemura explains the need for the prime minister to take bold actions designed to force bureaucrats to give up their vested rights and to keep only regulations which are truly needed.

Going back to the issue of administrative reform, Saito, among other things, says the number of public servants can be cut down to half, and that the government should reduce the number of its ministries and agencies.

On the possibility of Japan becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC), Tanaka says that the international situation is against Japan's bid to join the UNSC. He adds: "The United Nations will mark the 50th anniversary of its formation next year. We should have taken this as a chance to reform the United Nations. Some people thought it was a chance for Japan to become a permanent UNSC member." While admitting the trend in Asian nations of building up military power, Tanaka says: "I do not think that safety and security in Northeast Asia have been improved. On the contrary, I think that the situation is getting worse." He then explains the need for Japan to make international contributions in non-military areas.

The discussion ends at 2345 GMT.

Mieno Makes 'Daring' Statements Before Retiring

OW2511083094 Tokyo SHUKAN DAIYAMONDO in Japanese 26 Nov 94 p 17

[FBIS Translated Text] In the run-up to his retirement on 16 December, after serving his full tenure as the governor of the Bank of Japan, Yasushi Mieno has been firing "daring statements" in volleys.

Typical of them was this: "In order to foster a healthy financial system, it is necessary for individual monetary institutions to collapse for reasons rightly attributable to them."

"Something like the collapse of the bubble economy will recur, if interest rates are deliberately pegged low," and so on.

The best of them, though, was his conclusion that previous mergers, such as that involving the Toyo Credit Union, were actually a "bankruptcy of banks."

He said: "When monetary organizations disappear in a certain way and stockholders and managers are compelled to take appropriate responsibility, they should be called bankruptcies."

The truth is that the Finance Ministry was shocked to hear this.

The mass media jumped on this statement right away, speculating that, "this was an announcement of forthcoming bank bankruptcies."

According to BOJ sources, however, the governor's lectures or official remarks at press conferences are ordinarily drafted beforehand by those responsible for policy matters and "the governor reads the manuscript as it is, except when he is amused to a certain degree."

It is a matter of common knowledge, therefore, that his remarks are all in accordance with the script prepared by the secretariat.

What, then, is his intention in making such remarks?

Sources close to him interpret them as messages directed to Yasuo Matsushita, the next BOJ governor, who previously served at the Finance Ministry and is currently chairman of the board of directors at Sakura Bank.

Before the post of the BOJ governor is transferred to someone with Finance Ministry experience from a BOJ career man, Mieno attempted to lay down basic future monetary policy. In other words, Mieno laid down the line so that new governor Matsushita will handle policies in accordance with "what Mieno said."

Right up until the day his tenure is up, Mieno's remarks must be closely watched.

Upper House Passes Tax Reform Package

*OW2511030194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0239 GMT
25 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TOKYO, Nov. 25 KYODO—The House of Councillors on Friday [25 November] passed government-proposed tax reform bills aimed at stimulating the economy and raising revenues to cope with the aging of society.

The reforms call for 5.5 trillion yen cuts in national income and regional resident taxes in fiscal 1995 starting April 1, while raising the consumption tax to 5% from the current 3% from April 1, 1997.

The law, however, includes a special clause empowering the government to review the proposed hike in the consumption tax by September 1996.

Under this clause, the government could boost the consumption tax to more than 6%, depending on the improvement of domestic economy and progress in administrative reforms.

The approval by the House of Representatives' plenary session realized a pledge by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama at the Naples summit in July of the Group of Seven industrial nations that the bills would be enacted before the end of the year.

Japan's trade partners, including the United States, have long called on Japan to take some measures to make its economy more driven by domestic demand rather than by exports.

The bills call for the 3% consumption tax to be hiked to 4% and a 1% local consumption tax to be introduced—making the total consumption tax 5%—from April 1997.

Ahead of the consumption tax hike, the government will cut national income tax and local resident taxes to stimulate economy.

For fiscal 1995, the cuts will be conducted by trimming 3.5 trillion yen in income and residential taxes as a permanent measure through an overhaul of the tax bracket system, while slashing an additional 2.0 trillion yen through a uniform 15% cut in taxes paid by all for just one year.

The reform is particularly designed to lighten the tax burden on middle-income people with annual earnings of 7 to 8 million yen.

Specifically, the income bracket on which a 20% income tax is levied has been widened from the range of 3 to 6 million yen to a span of 3.3 to 9 million yen.

The 2 trillion yen temporary cuts are set for only fiscal 1995, but the government is seeking to continue the cuts in fiscal 1996.

The Finance Ministry estimates the 5% consumption tax will generate at least an extra 4.8 trillion yen a year in revenues.

The Economic Planning Agency projects the favorable impact of the proposed income tax cuts will more than offset the higher consumer prices brought about by the consumption tax hikes.

Private economists, however, say the government is underestimating the impact on consumer prices.

Key Proposals Reported

*OW2511030794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0237 GMT
25 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TOKYO, Nov. 25 KYODO—Following are the principal proposals contained within the government-sponsored tax reform package enacted Friday [25 November] by Japan's Diet:

- Raise the 3% consumption tax to 5%, of which 1% will be a regional levy, in April 1977.
- Maintain current 5.5 trillion yen annual income and resident tax cuts, with 3.5 trillion yen permanently cut by overhaul of the progressive levy system, and 2 trillion yen cut by lowering the 1995 tax rate by 15% across the board with a refund ceiling of 70,000 yen.
- Ease the rising tax rates for mid-level earners making at least 7 million yen a year and raise the minimum taxable income, in overhaul of the progressive tax structure.
- Curb or scrap preferential consumption tax measures for smaller businesses.
- Review the consumption tax rate, as necessary, considering such factors as funding for public welfare, rectifying of unfair taxes and progress on administrative reform.

MOF Wary of Politician-Led Budget Compilation

OW2311144294 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 23 Nov 94 Morning Edition p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Finance [MOF] is concerned about an argument brought forth by cabinet ministers that ministerial-level budget negotiations should be reviewed in order for "politicians to take the initiative" in compiling the fiscal 1995 budget. The MOF thinks what they have said may be right. But when considering the present state of the coalition government, it is concerned that politicians, if they take the initiative, may all call for increasing expenditures ignoring severe financial conditions. There are also indications that in addition to a recent proposal to draw up a new economic plan, officials close to Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama will call for "transferring budget compilation rights to the Cabinet" to boost the image of the government. If they do so, a tug of war may occur between the MOF and these officials.

During informal talks among cabinet ministers on 22 November, Tsuruo Yamaguchi, director general of the Management and Coordination Agency, asserted: "Ministerial-level budget negotiations should be held at the prime minister's official residence with the prime minister playing a leading role in the negotiations." Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura also expressed the desire to review conventional budget compilation methods. He said at a news conference: "We hope to devise politician-led budget compilation methods." Certainly, there is strong criticism that ministerial-level budget negotiations have now become merely nominal. However, Takemura's other remark, in which he said "I am not sure how I should devise such methods," indicates that he has no specific ideas regarding new methods.

The call by Yamaguchi and other officials for reviewing the current methods seems to have the political intention

of pushing forward the "tone of the Murayama government"—that is, it will not easily move at the MOF's bidding. There was an event which encouraged them to make the call. Academics who serve as member of "Nijuichi-kai," a think tank Murayama recently set up as an informal policy advisory panel, unofficially advised Murayama that the transfer of budget compilation rights from the MOF to the cabinet should be a main feature in administrative and fiscal reform. Many people believe that Yamaguchi and Takemura, who are close to the prime minister, were mindful of this advice when they called for the review of ministerial-level budget negotiations.

Because the finance minister and ministry officials have come under criticism for various budgetary matters, the MOF has adopted an official stance that "ministry officials will go along with politicians in everything they decide." By maintaining this stance, the MOF aims to avert a recent "restraining influence" against the ministry. However, many ministry officials express their heartfelt sentiments, saying: "Even if ministerial-level budget negotiations are held at the prime minister's official residence, their contents will not change." As such, they question and oppose the review of ministerial-level negotiations. Their opposition will be stronger if the issue develops into a question of transferring budget compilation rights from the MOF to the cabinet.

The government recently decided on an agricultural package of six trillion yen to assist domestic farmers despite criticism that "it is spending money freely." At that time, the MOF's complaints of financial difficulties were drowned in calls for "politician-led" budget compilation.

In the 22 November cabinet ministers' informal talks, Transport Minister Shizuka Kamei, who advocates a plan to construct bullet train lines, was the first to support the idea of reviewing the ministerial-level budget negotiations. He said: "Ministerial-level negotiations are improper because in the negotiations, ministers only read prepared documents." The MOF has a sense of growing concern about arguments which could give momentum to the ruling parties' call for increasing expenditures.

Poll Puts Murayama Support Rate at 43 Percent

OW2311142594 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 23 Nov 94 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The results of a nationwide opinion poll conducted by YOMIURI SHIMBUN on 19-20 November put the support rate for the administration of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama at 43 percent, a drop of 2 percentage points from the previous month. The administration's non-support rate increased 1 percentage point to 39.9 percent. Although the support rates for political parties remained basically unchanged, the Japan New Party [JNP] registered only a 2-percent support rate, the lowest the party has garnered since last

August when the administration of former Prime Minister Hosokawa was inaugurated. The percentage of poll respondents who said they "did not support any political party" remained high at 44 percent. This figure has thus remained at over 40 percent for seven consecutive months.

Among reasons given by supporters of the Murayama administration regarding their support are the following: 1) the prime minister is reliable (29 percent); 2) the administration's political stance can be given a good rating (28 percent); and 3) the current government is better than the previous non-Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] coalition governments (also 28 percent).

Among reasons given by non-supporters of the Murayama administration include the following: 1) the administration is unstable (33 percent); 2) its political stance cannot be given a good rating (32 percent); and 3) it has achieved nothing noteworthy (31 percent).

As for support rates for individual political parties, the LDP garnered 27 percent, followed by the SDPJ at 10 percent, Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] 6 percent, Komeito [Clean Government Party] 3 percent, and Sakegake [Harbinger] and JNP both 2 percent. The LDP's support rate increased by 1 percentage point over the previous month, and the JNP's support rate dropped 1 percentage point. Otherwise, there were only very slight changes in the support rates for other parties. In the latest poll, the JNP registered a 2-percent support rate which is barely higher than the 1.9-percent support rate the party registered immediately after its formation in 1992.

The percentage of those who said they "did not support any political party" dropped 1 percentage point over last month's figure which was the second highest percentage ever recorded. However, the percentage of those who do not support any party still remains very high. This indicates that moves among various parties—in particular, the former ruling coalition parties which are proceeding to form a new-new party—have not helped them regain public confidence.

Murayama To Unveil New Domestic, Foreign Policies

OW2311135294 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 23 Nov 94 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama decided on 22 November to announce early next year a "policy vision" of his future priority goals in overall domestic and foreign policies including Japan's new Asia policy, and administrative reform. The prime minister is believed to be planning to announce the policy vision after concluding that he needs to unveil his own policies to dispel the notion that the House of Representatives should be dissolved after the current electoral system is reformed, and to build a "common

ground" for the three ruling parties to keep his coalition government in power even after the next general election.

The centerpieces of the policy vision are a new foreign policy, administrative reform, and a new package of economic stimulus measures. The prime minister intends to "announce his basic plans to place the axis of importance on Asia, and conduct a pacifist diplomacy within the bounds of the Constitution," (says his close aide). As for Japan's international contributions, the prime minister is studying ways to strengthen the government's assistance to non-government organizations (NGO). The prime minister plans to concentrate the economic stimulus measures on preventing a hollowing out of industry from occurring in Japan.

The prime minister plans to spell out the policy vision at a news conference to be held during his visit to the Ise Shrine on 4 January next year.

*** Shinseito Dissatisfaction With Ozawa Reported**

952B0031A Tokyo SHUKAN ASAHI in Japanese 4 Nov 94 pp 22-25

[Interview with Shinichiro Kurimoto by Takeshi Soga: "Ninety Percent of Shinseito Members Leaving Ozawa"; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] *The expression of denial can sometimes hide a feeling of caring inside a person. Some of Ichiro Ozawa's associates have turned against him with a vengeance, but by doing so, they have created an even larger "Ozawa legend." To set things straight, the political world has moved from an "anti-Ozawa versus pro-Ozawa" period to an "escape from Ozawa" period. In the following interview, Ozawa's former sworn friend, Shinichiro Kurimoto, a Diet member, revealed the current situation within Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party].*

[Soga] You once said, "Ichiro Ozawa is a revolutionary." Do you still feel that way?

[Kurimoto] I still sympathize with him. But the question now is different. I feel that the new-new party is not Ozawa's private party. We should put the "pro- or anti-Ozawa" conflict behind us. This conflict should have ended when the Murayama administration was established, as a result of the opposition to Ozawa. Mr. Ozawa was instrumental in the political changes up until early 1990.

During the 1991 gubernatorial election, when the "anti-Ozawa" group gained force, I, as an outsider of this political circle, said that "what Ozawa said made sense." However, it should be pointed out that we never had the boss-gang relationship. Many Shinseito members think the same way. Besides, the mentality of Diet members has changed.

[Soga] Is pro-Ozawa versus anti-Ozawa no longer the axis of political confrontation?

[Kurimoto] I believe it's a thing of the past. First of all, Mr. Ozawa has not led any recent political activity, including personnel matters to form the new party. Rather, Chairwoman Yuriko Koike of the public relations committee is said to have led us ahead. (laughter)

[Soga] Well then, has the assessment of Ozawa changed much?

[Kurimoto] It has changed. He is a type of person who wants always to strike out a batter with straight balls or to hit a home run. But things are not that easy. One needs to occasionally back away. Right?

I can understand that he would like to throw straight balls and win the game for once. But if his straight balls were hit twice, he should not be pitching the third one to the same spot. Especially if he is responsible for the people and society. We are not playing sandlot baseball.

[Soga] Do many Shinseito members share your view?

[Kurimoto] I dare say that 90 percent of the members do, although some members are not sure if they should profess their views now or keep them to themselves. Even those who are closest to Ozawa, who have local support, and who have fought in the elections with Ozawa, are reacting realistically.

[Soga] By acting realistically, do you mean that they believe Ozawa's straight ball strategy no longer works and that they have no other way but to "leave Ozawa"?

[Kurimoto] That's correct. But it is also true that some do not say it out loud because of their fear for their own diet seats.

[Soga] But does this realistic reaction get increasingly stronger?

[Kurimoto] That is my perception. Not everyone wants to be a fool all the time.

[Soga] But the public perception is that the core Shinseito members will guard Ozawa to the end.

[Kurimoto] I believe this has changed. During the June political upset, many members felt that "something was not right," but they did not show it in their actions.

[Soga] At the end of June, during the nomination, Mr. Ozawa supported former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who, up to then, belonged to the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]. Was it a shock to you?

[Kurimoto] Well, I suppose you can say that. Perhaps that was the first shock and the second shock was the Diet boycott by the parliamentary group "Kaikaku" [Renovation] at the end of September.

At the time of nominating the prime minister, Shinseito members, except for a few of Ozawa's close aides, believed that a coalition should be reestablished with the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ]. Therefore,

Shinseito members were surprised when Kaifu was nominated. I understand that Mr. Keiwa Okuda commented that this action was a "forbidden act." It can only be called "forbidden act" if the result was a win. It seemed as if the ace of spades were used but failed. In terms of logic, it was a total failure.

[Soga] The boycott by "Kaikaku" was also a cunning plan, wasn't it?

[Kurimoto] That boycott was not led by Ozawa. Some sources say that he was in Kagoshima, when the boycott was held. However, the opinion spread like wildfire that if Mr. Ozawa left the Diet session to go to Kagoshima, he might as well be boycotting the Diet. The truth is that 80 percent of the "Kaikaku" group did not believe that there would be a boycott.

After the boycott, some members in the Diet hall called out: "We need to form a separate new party." Then a certain core member was told jokingly that he should become the head of the new party. He was flattered for a moment, and then said: "Are you trying to kill me?" (laughter)

Because a Diet boycott is a rarity in the history of constitutional government, the Kaikaku members should have been consulted at a general meeting, but nothing was done. We were all dumbfounded.

[Soga] If the new party reflects a strong image as the "Ozawa party," will there be repeated setbacks?

[Kurimoto] The Japan New Party's Banri Kaieda and other members, who opposed Ozawa strongly, have left the party. In fact, a majority of the Kaikaku group no longer believes that the pro- or anti-Ozawa issue is such a big thing. Rather, it believes that plans and policies are the party's priorities.

A Desire To Wipe Out Ozawa's Private Party Image

[Soga] It seems that the "Ozawa criticism," led by Mr. Koichiro Aino and others, has subsided lately.

[Kurimoto] I suppose Mr. Aino has become tired of it. For a while, criticism of Ozawa was believed to have meant something. Moreover, when Mr. Aino became a "hero" after criticizing Ozawa, a certain Shinseito leader said: "He who cannot take care of other members should not criticize others." Now, however, the old conservative logic of "supporting the followers" is no longer in fashion.

[Soga] Isn't it a common belief that young Diet members, who depend on Ozawa's financial resources, cannot oppose him?

[Kurimoto] That has changed, and it is questionable whether Ozawa is dependable in providing election funds. Therefore, when Keisuke Nakanishi, who is in charge of election affairs nationwide, called for an early

election, the young members openly asked: "Are we really being cared for?" and added: "We are against the dissolution of the Diet."

[Soga] Is it necessary to get rid of the Ozawa image, while joining with the Komeito/Soka Gakkai and the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP]/labor union?

[Kurimoto] I think so. As long as we do not act like we are going along with Ozawa, we will be rid of the Ozawa image. It is better late than never when erasing the public image that the new party will be Ozawa's own private party. Komeito and the DSP feared that they were in danger of reaching their top limits in the election. Also, they were willing to risk any disadvantages in the single-seat election system but wanted to survive in a larger arena of a new party. However, this would not work, once we were out of political power. It is natural that both parties are running away from the new party. We should not have let political power slip away from our hands.

[Soga] How do you see Mr. Ozawa these days?

[Kurimoto] He seems very optimistic. He thinks a new party will win the election and push forward with reform. He does not understand why others do not see things his way and simply concludes that those who do not follow him are evil. But the way things look, everyone, except Ozawa, thinks that a new party will fail to materialize. If Ozawa is the only one believing in the new party, all others inevitably feel that there is something wrong with his judgment.

[Soga] Mr. Ozawa seemed confident about the political reform bill and about the nomination of Mr. Kaifu as prime minister. Were there problems in the process of gathering information relating to those events?

[Kurimoto] Ozawa's collection of information is biased. His information was not gathered from all sources. Even when we offer information, he would reject it, saying that it was incomprehensible. We originally thought he had political know-how gained while he belonged to the Tanaka and Takeshita factions.

[Soga] But if Ozawa can only demonstrate his abilities when he is in power and can do nothing right when he is out of power, then he is not really a revolutionary. What do you think?

[Kurimoto] Marx needed Lenin to complete the revolution. Lenin dealt with situations dynamically, and so did Japan's Toshimichi Okubo and Shigeru Yoshida, whom Ozawa respects. However, Ozawa is different. He will only throw straight balls, which makes him act in the manner of a religionist.

[Soga] A new policy study group was established by members of Shinseito, Japan New Party and Jiyuto [Liberal Party], which includes you and Mr. Kazuo Aichi. Were you dissatisfied with the way the new party was being formed?

[Kurimoto] Mr. Ozawa in July announced that a new party would be formed in September. But it was only a political idea. There were no outlines or basic policies for the new party, which made everyone feel that "preparations for the new party are not properly done." During August, however, in order not to be seen as a potential faction, we discussed matters individually among ourselves. When September came, there was no decision, even regarding election cooperation. Under such circumstances, our study group was formed spontaneously at the end of September.

[Soga] But why should the forming of a policy study group be considered factional activity?

[Kurimoto] It is rather strange. If we want to form a study group, others will criticize us, saying that we are either pro- or anti-Ozawa. Nevertheless, it is unusual that at this stage, the only thing that has been discussed concerning the new party is whether or not the party head should be elected by popular vote. More than half of our group members feel that rather than a study group, we are ready to be called a policy group.

[Box, pp 24-25]

A Collapse of "Ozawa Myth" in Nagata-cho

I was shocked by Kurimoto's words. However, there are many others who attest that the "Ozawa era has ended." One Shinseito leader, who asked to remain anonymous (who had also admitted to being one of Ozawa's "bodyguards" once), criticized Ozawa bluntly: "He is, after all, incompetent. He can only function when he has power and money. His close aides, Kozo Watanabe and Hiroshi Kumagai, also left him. They are now running around gathering their own followers."

Moreover, formation of the new-new party, which Ozawa considers to be an "almighty trump card," has proven fruitless. Komeito, led by Ozawa's own ally, Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa, has split into two groups: the Diet members will reform into the new-new party, but the local assembly members want to keep their Komeito status. In addition, Soka Gakkai's honorary chairman, Daisaku Ikeda, in September told the press: "My ideal has been to promote LDP-Komeito ties," indicating Komeito's inconsistent feeble structure.

Similarly, the DSP, led by Chairman Takashi Yonezawa, is also shaky. A DSP leader said: "Unlike conservative Diet members, who support a faction, our support group—labor union—is a mass organization, requiring democratic consensus. If we want to join hands with a new conservative group, our labor union and local groups will leave us. Mr. Ozawa, who entered politics straight from college, will not understand the mechanism of a public discussion."

In other words, Ozawa's direct approach to problem-solving will only bring about a downfall. But if a "war against Ozawa" is to occur, it will only result in breaking up an already disorderly crowd. Therefore, they think

that they should first "detach themselves from Ozawa," and then push forward with preparations for the next political realignment. Mr. Kazuo Aichi, who is the de facto chairman of the Policy Study Group, to which Mr. Kurimoto belongs, said: "Even if a new party is formed in December, it will be followed by a second and a third political realignment. Unless we readjust and organize our policy matters, we will be called an illegal group." Kurimoto's reasoning sounded convincing.

The LDP and SDPJ united to "counter Ozawa," and are like mirrors set against each other, who are also moving toward "detaching from Ozawa." For example, the SDPJ's right-wing members formed a "New Democratic Alliance" [Shin Minshu Rengo] to be the third core group for the next political realignment. Although there are some right-wing members of the SDPJ who would like to work with Ozawa, LDP members, on the other hand, expect the following: "We are most concerned as to when the LDP-SDPJ will dissolve its coalition and form two new parties. If the New Democratic Alliance will become a receiving body to bring in the new-new party, things will work out," according to an LDP leader.

Because of SDPJ's dramatic policy changes, political realignment, pivoting around a new political axis, has become a possibility. Perhaps each party has begun its departure from the "Ozawa myth of early 1990," keeping "one step ahead" and aiming for a political realignment. [end box]

New Democratic League Seeking To Disband SDPJ

OW2311130094 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 22 Nov 94 Evening Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The "New Democratic League" (led by Sadao Yamahana), a centrist-rightist group within the ruling Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], held an executive meeting in the Diet on the morning of 22 November. At the meeting, the New Democratic League affirmed its plan to call an extraordinary party convention to disband the SDPJ and pave the way for "democrats and liberals to found a new party."

The New Democratic League said it would drop the plan to break away from the SDPJ if a decision was made at the meeting to hold the extraordinary party convention. There is a possibility, however, that some members of the New Democratic League will leave the SDPJ this year if they see no prospect of the extraordinary party convention being held.

An intra-party group that backs Prime Minister Murayama against the New Democratic League, opposes holding the extraordinary party convention, making it likely there will be a split between the group and the New Democratic League.

The unrest within the SDPJ is now spreading to local chapters and moves are afoot within the SDPJ leadership to hold a meeting of local chapter chiefs next month in a bid to shape an intra-party consensus.

LDP Bosses Vow To 'Shut Down' Faction Offices

OW2411130794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1239 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 24 KYODO—The leaders of the Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP's] five factions said on Thursday [24 November] they would "shut down" their faction offices by the year-end and refrain from organizing meetings of legislators belonging to their factions, LDP officials said.

Their commitment came in response to requests from LDP President Yohei Kono and Masajuro Shiokawa, chief of the LDP's party reform implementation headquarters, a panel of executives tasked with cleaning up the LDP's image as a party deeply mired in fund-raising scandals, they said.

The five leaders—former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, former International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, former Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi and former Posts and Telecommunications Minister Toshio Komoto—also vowed to give up their faction names.

However, these LDP elders said they would seek to maintain contacts among their faction members by transforming the factions into "policy study groups" or changing faction offices into "personal offices."

The current LDP leadership's decision and these leaders' responses are designed to impress voters with the seriousness of the LDP's efforts to bolster its integrity, the officials said.

However, it remains to be seen whether the factions will really disband completely in view of complaints that this would only result in the concentration of greater power in the current LDP leadership, headed by Kono.

During the day's meeting, Kono told the faction bosses, "Disbanding the factions is the most crucial focal point for reforming our party, so I want you to dissolve the factions quickly."

Watanabe was quoted as replying no faction should be allowed to cheat others in complying with the request. "It is imperative that all five factions live up to your request," he said.

The officials said Miyazawa replied, "I will ask for consent" from faction members for the proposed dissolution "by calling a general meeting of my faction by the year-end."

Before the LDP was ousted from power in a 1993 general election amid voter rage over a string of money scandals, factions had acted as miniparties whose bosses took turns in holding the reigns of government, while winning the allegiance of faction members by handing out huge campaign funds.

Miyazawa, however, hinted that his faction, Kochi-Kai, might keep its links with members by altering its label to a "study group." He said, "I will suspend Kochi-Kai as a group that engages in political activities."

Watanabe said, "I cannot help reducing the scale of my faction due partly to the lack of money (to channel to members) in view of changes in the political funds control system that will go into force from 1995."

New laws lower the ceiling on the annual amount of donations a politician can accept lawfully, while allowing businesses to donate to the coffers of each political party.

An executive of the Obuchi faction said, "We have already altered our organization into a policy study group."

LDP Showing Concern About SDPJ Moves

OW2411142794 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 24 Nov 94 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] The Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], which has formed a coalition with the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], is beginning to show growing concerns over moves within the SDPJ to form a new party as advocated by SDPJ Secretary General Wataru Kubo and the New Democratic League (with Sadao Yamahana as chairman). This is because should the rift between Kubo supporters and those who support Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama widen, the very foundations of the Murayama administration would crumble. Thus, there can be heard strong voices demanding Kubo and his followers to exercise self-restraint.

The LDP's concerns were conveyed to the SDPJ during a meeting between Kubo and LDP Secretary General Yoshiro Mori following a meeting of ruling coalition party executives on 21 November. Mori practically admonished Kubo, saying: "The Murayama administration has received high appraisal both at home and abroad for achieving results in a short time. (Mr. Kubo's actions) will not create a good impression."

In a lecture on 21 November, Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, former LDP Policy Research Council chairman, criticized Kubo and his group's actions in which they expressed determination to "even break up the party," saying: "These are forbidden acts that would bring about political instability."

LDP Policy Research Council Chairman Koichi Kato has told his close associates: "I wonder if they are trying to strengthen or destroy the administration. It is meaningless to hold meetings among party executives (with Kubo participating)."

Regarding the outlook on the situation, however, it is widely observed among LDP members that "there would not be much of a political upheaval since only about 10 members might leave the SDPJ." Thus, it seems the LDP

will just have to sit back and watch the SDPJ's moves for the time being, while praying that the turmoil would not intensify any further.

Murayama May Head SDPJ's Proposed New Party

OW2511131794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1247 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 25 KYODO—A new liberal party advocated by Social Democratic Party (SDP) Secretary General Wataru Kubo may choose Prime Minister and SDP Chairman Tomichi Murayama as its head, sources close to Kubo said Friday [25 November].

Some of the Kubo supporters are seeking Murayama's reign in the new party to make clear their party will support the current Murayama administration, the sources said.

The move is aimed at avoiding a split-up of the SDP and at reaching an early agreement within the SDP on creating the new party, they said.

Many Murayama supporters within the SDP remain opposed to selecting a new party head different from the prime minister.

Also stimulating the move toward putting Murayama at the top of the new party is the fact that Hokkaido Gov. Takahiro Yokomichi finds it difficult to join the new party immediately after his current term expires next spring.

Kubo and Sadao Yamahana, a former SDP chairman who leads another intraparty group called the New Democratic League, hope Yokomichi will head their new party.

The Kubo followers hope to obtain support by some of the Murayama supporters, who are opposed to launching a new party before an ordinary Diet session is convened in January, as envisaged by Kubo.

There are, however, voices within the New Democratic League that question the wisdom of selecting Murayama as party head and call for a "fresher" personality.

Meanwhile, SDP Deputy Secretary General Masanori Goto, one of the New Democratic League members, said not many SDP members will leave the party when the planned new party happens.

"The people who want to leave the SDP are either those who want to continue to be socialists or those who want to join the new opposition group Shinshinto (New Frontier Party)," Goto said at a meeting of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) legislators. "They are limited in number."

Goto also said the Yamahana-led group will continue to support the current Murayama administration, which

stands in the ruling coalition among the SDP, the LDP, and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger], a small LDP splinter group.

Goto cautioned against any rash movements toward the new party, saying he opposes launching the new party without Murayama's support.

He added joint election campaigns with the LDP should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Kubo Criticizes Party Members Over New Party Plan

OW2511100994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0901 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 25 KYODO—The No. 2 man of the ruling Social Democratic Party (SDP) blasted some party members Friday [25 November] for opposing the idea of establishing a new "democratic and liberal" party.

"If they only criticize us and present no creative counterproposals, it will not lead to productive debate," SDP Secretary General Wataru Kubo said at a news conference.

The SDP is one of three political parties in the ruling coalition led by SDP Chairman and Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama.

Kubo is backed by the New Democratic League (NDL), a group of lawmakers from the right side of the SDP pushing for early creation of the new political party.

However, another group of legislators from the left side of the party is criticizing the pro-Kubo group, saying its move will only result in the SDP's breakup.

The rift between the two camps is emerging as a threat to SDP unity and the stability of the current coalition, the first led by an SDP leader in nearly 40 years.

With the winner-take-all nature of the soon-to-be-introduced election system for the House of Representatives, the chances of the SDP's survival are slim, prompting some SDP lawmakers to accelerate a drive to launch a new party.

The new election system is regarded to favor larger parties. Noncommunist opposition groups are scheduled to set up a grand new party, called Shinshinto or New Frontier Party, on Dec. 10.

Kubo reiterated that dissolution of the SDP and creation of a new party of democrats and liberals "bear significance" in light of forming a third political axis rivaling the two conservative forces of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Shinshinto.

The LDP is the largest contingent in the governing alliance and Shinshinto is becoming the second largest political party after the LDP.

The SDP secretary general also said he hopes the party's Central Executive Committee will decide as early as next week to call a convention of national representatives in mid-December to discuss proposed policy tenets for a new party of democrats and liberals.

Compromise Deal Sought To Avert SDPJ Split

OW2411022294 Tokyo KYODO in English 1250 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TOKYO, Nov. 24 KYODO—A compromise deal has surfaced to save Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's Social Democratic Party (SDP) [of Japan—SDPJ] from a looming crisis triggered by some members seeking to set up a new party comprising "democrats and liberals" from both inside and outside the ruling coalition, SDP officials said Thursday [24 November].

Four junior members of the New Democratic League, a group advocating the new party, met Murayama late Wednesday night and proposed that a party convention be convened in January just to agree in principle on the planned new party, the officials said.

Such a gathering would just confirm a policy of dissolving the SDP and forming a new party six months or a year later rather than deciding to do so at once, they said.

The lawmakers, including Masanori Goto, SDP deputy secretary general, made the proposal in an attempt to strike a compromise deal with a rival SDP group opposed to the move.

The opposing group, which calls itself "an association of legislators supporting the Murayama administration and promoting social democratic liberal politics," fears the attempt to set up a new party may undermine the governing coalition that also includes the SDP's Cold War archrival, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Murayama told the league members during the meeting that a party convention entailing a split must be avoided and that due process should be followed in case a convention is called, the officials said.

The remarks indicate Murayama, Japan's first socialist premier in nearly 40 years, wants all SDP members to be included when a new party is established, party sources said.

The league, headed by former SDP Chief Sadao Yamahana, is seeking to form a new party over concerns that the SDP, without renovating its old image, could be left out in the ongoing process of political reorganization, including the establishment of a grand new opposition party comprising most noncommunist forces, set for Dec. 10.

The intraparty division is serious, with Murayama's right-hand man Wataru Kubo, SDP secretary general, joining the league in advocating the party's disbanding in favor of a new party.

*** LDP, SDPJ Leaders Discuss Constitution, SDF***952B0021A Tokyo SEKAI in Japanese Nov 94 pp 128-144*

[Discussion by SDPJ's Kosuke Uehara and Osamu Yatabe, LDP's Taku Yamasaki and Katsuhiko Shirakawa; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [SEKAI] The reason we planned this discussion in the form of debates between the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] is related directly to the SDPJ's major policy transformation. The SDPJ used to consider the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] as unconstitutional, but it changed its interpretation, saying that "the SDF is within the limits of our Constitution." Also, it now "upholds" the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. Of course, as there was a major change—the end of the Cold War—in the international situation, it is natural in a sense to change policies on self-defense and security. But, as the policy transformation relates to our Constitution that has defined the basic course of action for Japan in the postwar period, there exists a sense of bewilderment and vexation over this change among the public, including those who support the SDPJ.

When I think of it, the difference between the LDP and the SDPJ that, for better or worse, formed our postwar [political] structure might have been based solely on the issue of security and defense. Therefore, it may not be a good idea to "dissolve" this point of contention. Otherwise, a new question arises as to the meaning of political parties, whose existence is based on their policies.

First, I would like to hear opinions from those of you from the SDPJ. In the postwar period, disputes over security and the SDF always developed into debates on our Constitution. I can understand that the idea of neutrality has lost its meaning due to the end of the Cold War, but I don't think something unconstitutional can become constitutional because of it. I've been feeling uneasy, because the SDPJ has not explained this at all.

As Evidence of Self-Examination Over the War of Aggression

[Uehara] This may sound too harsh, but the past relationship between the LDP and the SDPJ was that between oil and water. The difference between these two parties was based on differences in their opinions on constitutional interpretation of the SDF and the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty as well as in their views on how to establish and form Japan's security policies.

I believe one of the reasons why the SDPJ from its inception continued to voice the unconstitutionality of the SDF and seek elimination of the security treaty is that it was determined, with its self-examination over World War II and the Pacific War, never to let Japan become a militaristic nation, which is troublesome to both our citizens and our neighboring countries in Asia. Partly because of the prevailing antiwar mood at that

time, the original intent of our Constitution was to establish a future course for Japan as a leading unarmed, neutral nation in the world. The SDPJ has acted as part of the political power throughout the postwar period to establish this original intent of our Constitution firmly in conducting our state affairs. Along with this course of action, our party has voiced the unconstitutionality of the SDF as its basic ideological stance. And, I think these two basic points—our Constitution's peace orientation with its aim to keep Japan striving to become an unarmed nation and self-examination over World War II—should continue to be respected from now on without regard to differences in ideologies and political parties.

Now, when the Murayama administration was formed, Prime Minister Murayama expressed his view that "it is within the limits of our Constitution to have a minimum required level of self-defense forces for defensive purposes only." This view has been interpreted by the mass media as an endorsement of the constitutionality of the SDF and as a major policy transformation with a 180-degree turn. Certainly, it could be interpreted as an endorsement of the constitutionality of the SDF. But, can we really say so from constitutional arguments? I think this bothered the prime minister as well. But, as commander in chief of the three divisions of the SDF, or in view of having to deal with possible crisis situations for the nation, if he adheres to the previous party line, such as seeing the SDF as being "somewhat unconstitutional" or being unconstitutional, he will not be able to carry out his duty to manage the government and political affairs. This was a painful adjustment [for the prime minister], I believe. In terms of constitutional arguments, it is a fact that debates within the party as well as public opinion are divided, and that the majority of academics still support the view that the SDF is unconstitutional. I believe that these issues relating to our Constitution and the SDF remain on the agenda for further discussion.

Some time ago, however, I began to wonder if our defensive forces should be zero. When I thought of national security issues, I realized that each nation has the right to defend itself, and, although our Constitution contains restrictive clauses, our citizens have a positive view toward the existence of the SDF and the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. So, I made a policy judgment that a certain level of defensive forces could be allowed by our current Constitution, and have promoted a review of the SDPJ's security policy. Because of pros and cons within our party, this task has been difficult. But, in main, we are now inclined to think that we should form our security policy by accepting the view that our Constitution permits a certain limited level of defense forces. This is how I see the SDPJ's current position.

[SEKAI] You used an expression, "within the limits of our Constitution." Does it mean that you can think of a military capacity that goes beyond those limits in the future, even though it is within the limits at present?

[Uehara] Yes, of course. A security policy within the limits of our Constitution focuses strictly on our territorial land, sky, and waters, and it is based on a capacity that can deal with limited and small-scale aggression. This idea is the basis for the "basic defense capability plan" (issued in 1976). In the Showa 50's [1975 through 1984] when the "basic defense capability plan" became established, the territorial land, sky, and waters were defined as up to 200 to 300 nautical miles. Later, they were expanded to 500 to 600 nautical miles, and continued to be expanded to 1,000 nautical miles. I myself think that we need to reexamine the discrepancy between today's standard and that of the "basic defense capability plan" issued during the time when Sakata was the Director General of the Defense Agency.

Clear Violation of Our Constitution

[Yatabe] I have almost the same understanding as far as the first half of Mr. Uehara's statement is concerned. I understand that the Preamble and Article 9 of our Constitution declare here and abroad that, based on our self-examination over the major ravages of World War II and the war of aggression, we promise never to wage war or to maintain armaments for such purposes.

Article 9 states that "[the Japanese people] forever renounce war and the use of force," and that to this end, "land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained." I believe it is a clear violation of our Constitution to maintain such military forces as the SDF, one of the best in the world.

On the other hand, the LDP has been maintaining its own interpretation that Article 9 denounces war as means to settle international disputes, but permits armaments and war for self-defense. This I can't agree with. Every nation says that it maintains armaments and resorts to the use of force for self-defense; no nation would say that it maintains its military for aggression. The LDP's interpretation is distorted to justify the existence of the SDF, I believe.

Originally, Japan's rearmament began under unusual circumstances; in the wake of the Korean war, Japan was ordered by the occupation army to create police reserve forces. And, at the same time that the San Francisco Peace Treaty was signed, the original security treaty was also pressed upon Japan. There is a story behind this treaty: Among the plenipotentiaries from the Japanese Government, only Prime Minister Yoshida signed the security treaty.

At that time, the SDPJ objected to the signing of both treaties, saying that Japan should neither side with one camp in the Cold War nor be allowed to take the road to full-scale rearmament because of these treaties.

Subsequently, the Cold War escalated, pitting the East against the West. The SDPJ opposed joining hands with one camp in the Cold War, and at the same time it promoted peace diplomacy with China, the Soviet

Union, and Korea so as to create a peaceful environment in Asia as much as possible.

[SEKAI] However, the SDPJ's assertion did not necessarily prevail in the minds of the public. The SDPJ was unable to win a majority in elections. And, according to an opinion survey, about 80 percent of the respondents support the existence of the SDF at the current level.

[Yatabe] Although we couldn't win a majority, we were the leading opposition party to block constitutional revision by forging our political power in defense of our Constitution.

Regrettably, however, because of the harsh reality of the Cold War, the argument for unarmed neutrality and pacifism under our Constitution remained in hibernation.

But, now that the Cold War structure has collapsed, we finally seem to have come to the point where our Constitution's pacifism can blossom anew. Under such circumstances, our constitutional pledge on disarmament and renunciation of war is becoming increasingly persuasive. But, as we cannot disband the unconstitutional SDF immediately in light of the current political reality, we believe that we need to promote, for the time being, a full-scale campaign for arms reduction to create a world without armaments.

Therefore, it is nothing but going against the current of the times for the Murayama administration, or the SDPJ, to change its stance, saying that the SDF is constitutional. As the Murayama administration was formed because the three [coalition] parties agreed to "maintain the SDF and the security treaty," I think it simply has to run the government within the scope of this agreement. I understand that, due to the nature of the coalition government, it is difficult to bring out the SDPJ's argument of the unconstitutionality of the SDF into the cabinet. It should be left in Miyakezaka (SDPJ's headquarters). But, I told Mr. Murayama that he should not take a stance of accepting the constitutionality of the SDF. Regrettably, though, Mr. Murayama took that position.

And, the SDPJ also decided to take the same position, discarding its unique policy. This is a major mistake. In a coalition government, it is possible to have differences between the administration's policy and each party's platform—it is not necessary to eliminate these differences.

Rather than repeating the same debate over constitutional interpretation, what's important now is to pursue in a serious stride the way to establish a system of peace and security for Asia, including Japan, such as by promoting arms reduction, peaceful settlement of international disputes, and international cooperation in nonmilitary areas.

The SDF as the Basis for National Existence

[SEKAI] As the governing party in charge of Japan's postwar defense policies, the LDP has, of course, taken

the position that the SDF is constitutional and that the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty should be maintained. But our Constitution states that land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained, and that the right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized. It seems impossible to say that such war potential is not maintained by our current SDF. If it is in fact impossible, a constitutional amendment should be proposed to our citizens. And, if such a proposal is voted down by our citizens, there should be a change of administration. This, I think, is the essence of party politics. Instead, this seems to have been circumvented through interpretive revision of our Constitution.

[Yamasaki] What the two of you from the SDPJ talked about as major premises—to advocate pacifism based on self-examination over the war and the policy of unarmed neutrality as evidence of this pacifism—are also what we need to understand, because we also have undergone self-examination over the war. It is a fact that the Preamble of our Constitution advocates pacifism and international cooperation. Therefore, to advocate the policy of unarmed neutrality is one way of expressing this spirit, I think. However, in terms of issues relating to political reality, national security is the most fundamental policy agenda. It is not realistic for our country alone to pursue unarmed neutrality. It is most preferable, and an eternal ideal, for all mankind and all nations to become unarmed and neutral.

Now, about interpretation of our Constitution. You argue that, according to Article 9 of our Constitution, the SDF cannot exist. I rather believe that it is impossible to deny the right to self-defense, which is considered an essential right for a sovereign nation. To deny it is to ignore the reality for the sake of an ideal. Our Constitution does not deny us, as a sovereign nation, the right to maintain the minimum level of self-defense forces required to defend ourselves. Our Constitution proclaims that we "renounce the use of force as means of settling international disputes." Conversely, this means that the right to individual self-defense is acknowledged. To deny this is to abrogate the basis for national existence.

[SEKAI] The LDP's platform proposes constitutional revision. Isn't it saying that our Constitution should be revised because there is a discrepancy between what Article 9 says and the reality of having the SDF?

[Yamasaki] Some people may argue that way. But, I believe our party's proposal for constitutional revision was originally made as a proposal to promulgate our own independently written Constitution. Our current Constitution is a so-called constitution imposed by the occupation army. Our party platform is based on the premise that a nation's citizens should write their own Constitution, which defines what their nation should be.

Of course, there are various problems in our current Constitution, and Article 9 is one of them. Especially today when a UN-centered approach is pursued, as Mr.

Yatabe mentioned earlier about the blossoming of pacifism, when the UN-centered approach seems to have a chance to bear fruit, a question arises as to whether our current Constitution can permit our nation to participate in various collective security activities that are expected to be carried out by the United Nations in the future.

The SDF Is Different from Military Forces in Other Countries

[Shirakawa] I was elected for the first time in 1979. As a Diet member of that generation, I was not directly involved in those fierce debates of my predecessors on the constitutionality of the SDF. At the time of deliberation on the PKO [peacekeeping operations] Cooperation Act, there were serious discussion on the relationship between our Constitution and the SDF. But, as I was an unsuccessful candidate in an election at that time (laughter), I was not able to participate in these interesting discussions.

Around the Showa 50's when a general consensus was reached among the public that the relationship between our Constitution and the SDF was not a critical issue, the people of my generation began their political activities.

Looking back at the time when our Constitution was drafted, I think there existed a very strong sense of idealism regarding the United Nations. For example, UN police forces were created, and if any country resorted to aggression, these police forces would control it. In such an environment, Japan at least would not cause any trouble to other countries. And, I think the Preamble and Article 9 of our Constitution were drafted along with this kind of thinking.

Although we hoped to create such a world, we couldn't in reality. The world was divided into two camps—liberalism and socialism—that fought fiercely against each other, and our predecessors had to confront the issue of devising realistic security policies. But they had the Constitution, which did not endorse the waging of war in a traditional sense as one of the nation's sovereign rights. Yet, assuming that the Constitution did not deny the right to individual self-defense, our predecessors had formed Japan's security policies ever since the creation of police reserve forces. I believe they had to do so from their political standpoints.

As a lawyer, I don't think it wrong to interpret our Constitution the way our predecessors did. Some people argue that doing so is tantamount to constitutional revision in installments. But, because of Article 9 of our Constitution, Japan's SDF is forever different in character from other countries' military forces. As we are permitted to have the right to self-defense for defensive purposes only, we never raise arguments for self-defense like "that country seems to invade us, so we should knock it down first." As far as military equipment is concerned, we don't maintain attack missiles, intercontinental ballistic missiles, or aircraft carriers. I believe

that our predecessors took pains in conforming the reality of our security policies to Article 9 of our Constitution. As many of our citizens began to accept the view that the SDF is within the limits of our Constitution, I think the LDP has done its best in this area.

Constitutional scholars might have many different kinds of interpretation. But the elected officials of the Diet have deliberated on the SDF's budget, and the majority of them approved such budget proposals, not once but dozens of times. In the final analysis, I believe there is no other way but to use these kinds of activities to resolve constitutional debates.

The SDPJ's Raison d'Etre

[SEKAI] First, would you elaborate on the right to individual self-defense?

[Yatabe] There are two kinds of rights to self-defense: the right to collective self-defense and that to individual self-defense. The use of the right to collective self-defense is clearly prohibited by our Constitution. We recognize that the right to individual self-defense is the essential right of a nation. But, having the right to self-defense does not mean that we can have armaments.

Some constitutional scholars argue that we don't even have the right to self-defense. But we believe that our Constitution acknowledges the right to self-defense, but it does not permit armed defense.

[Yamasaki] There have been lots of debates in the Diet on how to interpret "war potential" in paragraph 2 of Article 9, which states, "war potential will never be maintained." Our party's interpretation as a governing party in the past is that paragraph 1 of Article 9 pertains to an aggressive military power when it states that we renounce war and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes, and therefore, it does not include the minimum required self-defense forces in the definition of war potentials.

"War potential" that cannot be maintained are those beyond the level of minimum required forces to exercise the right to individual self-defense. Otherwise, equipment maintained by police can also be considered as war potential.

[Uehara] But, when it comes to constitutional interpretation, not political arguments, I think those sensible people from the LDP also have some doubts. We still need to have lots of discussions on this issue within our party, and we are struggling to do so.

As the SDPJ advocated its stance on unarmed neutrality and unconstitutionality of the SDF, and it always checked and applied the brakes on the then governing party's defense and security policies, Japan was able to develop itself with lightly armed as an economic and welfare superpower. To be sure, the governing party made policy judgments, but because of the existence of the SDPJ,

which constantly raised questions, Japan was able to become what it is now. I think the SDPJ should be proud of this achievement.

Even so, the SDPJ, now as a governing party, has to take charge of national security as well. If we adhere to our traditional view of unarmed neutrality and the unconstitutionality of the SDF, it will be difficult to take charge of the government. Therefore, although we still have some doubt about constitutional interpretation, we had to acknowledge, as a governing party and as a result of our political judgment, the existence of the SDF solely for defending our territorial land, sky, and waters, although the expression, the minimum required level of the SDF, sounds somewhat tricky.

[Yamasaki] There is a dialectical way of argument. And, as Mr. Uehara said, I believe that the SDPJ's antithetical arguments were valuable and had a big influence on policymaking.

For example, in 1976 when the "National Defense Program Outline" was approved, the upper limit of defense expenditures was also decided as 1 percent of GNP. This was what the SDPJ had been proposing for years, and had a certain level of public support. I think it was the SDPJ's achievement.

[Yatabe] What Mr. Yamasaki said is exactly true, if I may be permitted to say so (laughter). The SDPJ's arguments on unconstitutionality and various movements against arms expansion influenced the political reality in many ways, and formed a framework to restrain the SDF and security policies. The framework includes, for example, self-defense for defensive purposes only, non-employment of the right to collective self-defense, prohibition of sending troops abroad, three non-nuclear principles, limiting [the defense budget] to 1 percent of GNP, and prohibition of arms exports. As far as the prohibition on sending troops overseas is concerned, there was debate on whether to approve the sending of SDF when the SDF was established, and the House of Councilors decided not to approve the sending of SDF troops abroad. The three non-nuclear principles were formed in the midst of those issues in the late 1960's surrounding the reversion of Okinawa without nuclear weapons and demonstrations against admitting nuclear warships at our ports. As a result of our struggles and actions to safeguard our Constitution, the LDP-led government had to take our views into consideration in creating the framework.

The Framework for Defense Policy Evaluated

[Shirakawa] Some people say that interpretive revision of our Constitution was made regarding Article 9. But, from the LDP's standpoint, there has never been interpretive revision of our Constitution. Article 9 exists intact, I believe. But the Cold War period was certainly different from the situation envisioned when the Preamble of our Constitution was drafted. At that time, we were faced with real-life alternatives between the policy

of neutrality or joining hands with one of the two camps, and we decided to conclude the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, rather than to take the policy of neutrality. But, Article 9 of our Constitution existed intact, and the SDPJ always acted as a watchdog; we debated the true meaning of the right to independent self-defense in the Diet, and defense authorities examined this issue seriously. How can we defend ourselves if a foreign country invades our country? With this question in mind, we have set up our defense capacity.

Some people often argue for enactment of emergency laws in preparation for possible invasions. If such laws become truly necessary, the Japanese people will probably make such laws in good order. But, as there isn't any country that seems about to invade our country in the near future, we are in no hurry to enact such laws. The reason here is that if we make such laws in a haphazard manner, these emergency laws may lead us in a strange direction.

Another thing I would like to point out is that there are many so-called hawks among those who advocate constitutional revision in relation to Article 9. There are two types of constitutional revisionists; One group proclaims loudly that Article 9 is the problem, and the other points out that there is nothing basically wrong with what is said in Article 9, but our nation's Constitution should be written and promulgated by the Japanese people themselves.

Relatively speaking, I think many of the members of Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] feel awkward about Article 9 of our Constitution. On the other hand, the majority of the LDP's hawks—who were considered by the mass media, and by us, to have a feeling of awkwardness—say that they have no intention of proposing revision of Article 9, and that our current security policy should remain in force as is. A typical example is Mr. Shintaro Ishihara.

[Uehara] I would like your party to shelve also the idea of an independently written Constitution.

[Shirakawa] I think that idea will be debated sooner or later.

[Uehara] You let the SDPJ make promises, but you never make promises at all.

[SEKAI] I would like to confirm with both of you from the LDP. You recognize and safeguard the current framework in its basic terms, including the three non-nuclear principles, prohibition of arms exports, and non-employment of the right to collective self-defense, don't you?

[Yamasaki and Shirakawa] That's exactly right.

[Yamasaki] That has been the LDP's policy from the beginning. It is the fact that the SDPJ advocated it, but it is also a fact that the LDP adopted it from its own will.

[Uehara] If you two say so, I guess the LDP has changed considerably.

[Yatabe] During the Nakasone administration, there was a strong movement to eliminate the framework, such as the 1 percent limit, prohibition of arms exports, the three non-nuclear principles, and so on, so as to close all the accounts of postwar politics. Mr. Yamazaki says that these principles should be maintained, and this is quite significant, I think.

[Yamasaki] Even during the Nakasone administration, I don't think we tried to eliminate all of these principles. Though, the 1 percent limit was actually eliminated. But, even though it was eliminated, the [defense] budget has never exceeded 1 percent [of GNP]. Also, when the 1 percent limit was eliminated, we decided to focus on qualitative restrictions rather than quantitative limits on defense expenditures. We reaffirmed that Japan would never become a military superpower, and that we would continue to uphold such principles as self-defense for defensive purposes only, the three non-nuclear principles, and prohibition of arms exports.

With regard to the "sending of troops abroad," the SDPJ once included in this category the "sending of personnel" for purposes other than the use of force. It did so during the enactment of the PKO Cooperation Act. In fact, as SDF troops go abroad for PKO purposes, we need to have a strict definition of the sending of troops abroad.

In the future, for example, when official UN military forces are established, and when a question arises as to whether Japan's SDF should be placed under the military staff committee [of the United Nations], I am sure there will be fierce debate over whether such a placement would be in conflict with our Constitution. Even if it is judged to be in accordance with our Constitution, a question remains as to whether it would go against the principle of prohibition of sending troops abroad. These are some of the issues for the future.

[Yatabe] The SDPJ has not only advocated unarmed neutrality and unconstitutionality [of the SDF], or debated interpretation; during the time of Chairman Ishibashi, for example, the party also clarified again the reasons for choosing unarmed neutrality. Currently, Japan does not have any likely causes for military conflicts with other countries. Japan is also a country whose economy depends on importing a substantial amount of raw materials, including energy resources, from foreign countries, and exporting [value-added products]. It cannot get involved in a war. In the final analysis, if we are to concentrate on self-defense for defensive purposes only, our land in effect will be used as a battle ground. Therefore, we are not talking about ideals, but we have been saying that unarmed neutrality is our only realistic choice.

Following the end of the Cold War, we—Mr. Uehara as chairman and I as vice chairman—wrote a policy statement on "creation of peace." This policy statement

proposes UN reform and its role, establishment of a regional security system, and unconstitutionality of the SDF, and offers a security policy that will promote arms reduction and diminish the role of military as much as possible,

Also, our Peace-Strategy Study Group issued an "Arms Reduction Program for the SDF," showing a concrete process for arms reduction and how to close the gap between the existing SDF and our Constitution so as to move toward unarmed neutrality.

Is the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty a "Cap on a Bottle"?

[SEKAI] Our discussion has focused so far on the SDF. But, the major framework for Japan's defense policy is the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. It can be said that the SDF was born from this treaty. I believe that the role and the nature of this treaty itself have changed since the end of the Cold War. What is your view on this?

[Uehara] Japan's "Basic Policies for National Defense" (1957) are based on three major ideas: maintaining the minimum required level of self-defense forces, respect for the United Nations, and reliance on the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty in case of Japan's becoming a target for a large-scale aggression. I think we need to reexamine these "Basic Policies for National Defense" sooner or later.

Even since the end of the Cold War, the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty is considered necessary or indispensable. As Japan-U.S. relations must be safeguarded, I am not planning to deny the treaty completely. But, it is clearly evident that the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty is a military agreement made under the Cold War structure. During the Vietnam war, B-52 bombers took off from the base in Okinawa for a bombing mission. Even now, when any problems materialize in Middle East, the Third Division of the U.S. Marines is dispatched from Okinawa.

Is that right to make an effective use of the strongest kind of a military alliance devised under the Cold War structure even after the end of the Cold War? I doubt it. We can conjure up possible threats as much as we want—the Soviet Union disappeared, but now there is a problem on the Korean peninsula, and India has been increasing its naval power, and there is a problem brewing in the Spratly Islands, and so on. I think these kinds of issues should be discussed more in the Diet. I think we have also come to the point where we can speak our mind to the United States. I just can't understand why people can speak of "maintaining" [the treaty] without having a discussion or a study.

[Yamasaki] I would like to say this in response to what Mr. Uehara said. The "Basic Policy for National Defense," which Mr. Uehara just mentioned, is as follows. In its introduction, it states that "the objective of our national defense is to prevent in advance a direct or indirect invasion, and if an invasion takes place, we must it so as to defend the independence and peace of our

democratic nation." "To prevent in advance" means to have a power to resist such an invasion. Will it be possible with the minimum required level of the SDF's capacity?

When this basic policy was issued, two superpowers in the West and the East—the United States and the Soviet Union—were in conflict, and one of the superpowers was Japan's neighbor. A massive amount of military force, known as the Far Eastern Army of the Soviet Union, existed in our vicinity. In such circumstances, it was impossible to rely solely on the SDF to prevent in advance a possible invasion.

Another important point is that the last of four provisions in the Basic Policies for National Defense states that "a foreign invasion will be dealt with according to the Security Treaty with the United States until such time in the future when the United Nations can effectively impede such an invasion." Mr. Yatabe said earlier that he had proposed the boosting of UN functions. I am sure he meant this ideal state in the future when the United Nations is equipped with a functioning system of collective security that will guarantee security for our nation and the entire world. What the "Basic Policies for National Defense" says is that, until such time, we must have the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. Also, Article 10 of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty clearly states that the treaty will be in effect until such time as the two governments can confirm the effectiveness of UN measures for Japan's security. After taking all this into consideration, we chose the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty as our own voluntary choice.

Problems exist for the future. The Cold War structure surely collapsed. But, if we eliminate the Japan-U.S. security system now, this will run counter to our basic policies for national defense. Besides, I think Asian countries will react to this and worry greatly about possible strengthening of Japan's military power. If Japan's SDF tries to fill the vacuum left by withdrawal of U.S. troops by building up the capacity to prevent possible invasions, that will be a real problem. It may affect our three non-nuclear principles, because currently we are under the U.S. nuclear umbrella.

It was been proposed during the SDPJ's recent party convention to create a new security system in Asia. If Asian nations approve the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the presence of the U.S. military forces in creating such a new system, that will be more realistic. I think Prime Minister Murayama was right in saying that the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty should be maintained.

[SEKAI] Compared to the past, do you think that guarantee of security through the collective security system of the United Nations is coming close to reality?

[Yamasaki] That still seems to take more time. It is not that easy to accomplish. But, like unarmed neutrality, it is a high-level objective that we need to pursue as an ideal. We need to get closer to this ideal as much as

possible. Rather than thinking of security in terms of theories of restraining and balancing superpowers as in the Cold War period, we are in fact moving in the direction where the United Nations can carry out the functions that were expected of it from its inception. In this sense, Japan must agree to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

[Yatabe] The basic nature of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty was to get Japan involved in the strategic planning of the United States in the Far East, and to make Japan play a role for one of the two camps in the Cold War. Therefore, as the threat from the Soviet Union disappeared after the end of the Cold War, I believe the treaty has lost its *raison d'être*.

Then, what should we do with the security treaty? If we cannot cancel the treaty immediately, we must lessen its militaristic nature by reducing the size of bases, and we must dissolve it eventually and deal with Japan-U.S. relations by signing a new friendship treaty, I think.

But, a recent report from the Defense Issues Council seems to suggest that the security treaty should assume a new role and be used as a base for joint maintenance of security in Asia by Japan and the United States. It also proposes that, in addition to its traditional role of defending Japan, the SDF should be given a new responsibility to deal with regional conflicts. I don't think we should take this course of action.

Mr. Yamazaki pointed out that Asian nations voice the need for the security treaty in order to prevent Japan from becoming a military superpower. I have been aware of this "cap-on-a-bottle" argument. But, I think what's important here is Japan to reduce its armaments voluntarily in order to lessen the worries of Asian nations. Saying that the security treaty should be maintained because of such worries sounds like putting the cart before the horse.

And, I oppose Japan's becoming a permanent member of the Security Council because it is an idea of becoming a superpower, and there is also a danger for Japan to assume a militaristic role. The United Nations has been pressured to carry out drastic reforms, including democratic reform of its Security Council and the strengthening of its functions in dealing with global issues. Japan must cooperate fully in such reforms first.

[Uehara] I am wondering whether it is possible to create a climate for Japan's becoming a permanent member of the Security Council and if various preparations have already been made for this in Japan. It is also necessary for Japan to sustain its constitutional ideal and let people understand the content of its nonmilitary cooperation. But I am not sure if this can be done either. I believe that Japan should make efforts to attain such membership by seeking an international agreement on these points and by actively promoting UN reforms.

[Shirakawa] I am skeptical about the rhetorical use these days of such expressions as the end of the era of ideologies and the end of the Cold War.

When we think of security, the most fundamental thing to consider is how many of our neighboring countries subscribe to liberalism and democracy.

As a war inflicts major damage on both sides, if democracy is being practiced, a war between nations will not occur so easily. But, if the leader of a nation is a dictator, and when democracy is not functioning properly, the nation is ready and likely to wage war for any reason, such as an outlet for public discontent. Does such a possibility no longer exist? Does democracy exist in our neighboring countries to the extent that it can prevent war?

Without regard to what the LDP or the SDPJ might say, I don't think the Japanese citizens feel at ease in thinking of waging war as means to defend their national interests. I think it is the power of democracy. In the final analysis, it is always the private citizens who suffer in a war.

Can we believe that everything has been resolved because we are now in the post-Cold War era, and that ideological conflicts no longer exist? In fact, autocratic ideas in a different sense are also on the rise in Japan, and there is fierce opposition to these ideas. I believe this kind of a situation exists in our neighboring countries, as well.

[Yatabe] During the Cold War, there was a fierce rivalry between NATO and Warsaw Pact countries in Europe. As the Cold War ended, these countries have formed the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which is now working on a project to reduce the number of conventional weapons. They discuss not only military issues but also security issues in general. Regrettably, we don't have such an organization in Asia yet. To be sure, there are many complicating factors, but we are advocating establishment of a CSCE-type, Asia-Pacific conference in Asia for arms reduction. There, we will discuss wide-ranging security issues, including arms reduction, cultivation of mutual trust, peaceful resolution of conflict, human rights, and the environment. Along the way, we will reduce the size of the SDF and dissolve the security treaty. That is our idea.

[Uehara] As Mr. Yamazaki said, I certainly understand that our neighboring countries in Asia regard the Security Treaty as a "cap on a bottle," and have a favorable attitude toward the presence of U.S. military troops in Japan. But, the original objective of signing the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the actual use of this treaty were based unmistakably on the threats of the Soviet Union. Such being the case, if you say that a new international order and a new climate in Asia are developing after the end of the Cold War, what we must do is to have discussions on the use and contents of the security treaty. If you are suggesting that we need to cope with the new situation without having such discussions, I can't understand it. I don't think the public will agree to that, either.

Especially those people in Okinawa and other places near U.S. military bases are skeptical because they have been forced to sacrifice themselves due to the security treaty and are feeling oppressed by the presence of military bases. We must review what needs to be reviewed. And, with regard to application [of the treaty], we must make improvements where improvements are necessary.

Where Is the Limit to the Defense Capacity?

[SEKAI] Earlier, it was mentioned that Japan's defense policy has been formed in a restrictive fashion because of the checking by the SDPJ. But, in 40 years, our defense expenditures have grown quite large in comparison to the world standard, and we have modern weaponry and equipment. What is the size of the defense capacity that is allowed by our Constitution?

[Yamasaki] How should we set the standards for our nation's defense capacity? At present, we have a general outline for our defense plan. Recently, the Defense Issues Council proposed a review of this outline, and I think we are going to make new defense plans in the near future.

The basic premise behind the outline for the current defense plan is called the basic defense capability plan. This idea is to maintain defense capability at the level where we can deal independently with—not oust independently—a limited, small-scale aggression against Japan. The capacity is enough to withstand such aggression for a few weeks, and after that, the aggressor will be ousted by U.S. military forces. As the plan does not call for establishment of defense capability by estimating military strengths of our neighboring countries or by assessing the level of threats, it is considered as providing a minimum required level of a self-defense system based on interpretation of our Constitution.

There are two points we must consider here. One is that the former Soviet military for the Far East became the Russian military, and in light of the current political and economic condition in Russia, the military certainly has weakened its power, but its size remains the same. Also, as regional conflicts keep occurring in the world, we need to constantly monitor changes in international situations around our country and have a carefully planned system [of defense].

Another point is that a basic defense capability cannot be built easily. Once it is lost, rebuilding it requires a tremendous amount of effort. Therefore, we cannot eliminate it when the situation around Japan is relatively stable, or rebuild it when the situation becomes precarious. It is a kind of insurance. The capability level of our current SDF is maintained to this extent. But, I think we should adopt such proposals as changing the balance of deployment that has been slightly shifted toward Hokkaido, and reducing the number of personnel from 274,000 to 240,000, as suggested by the Defense Issues Council.

[Uehara] I think it's good that Mr. Yamazaki and the governing party are interested in and paying attention again to the fundamental defense capacity idea. I also regret the fact that if the SDPJ had had a little more sense of reality at the time when this idea was formed, it could have become a governing party much sooner.

The basic defense capability plan also elaborates on the level of defense capability during peace times. This level is defined as a capability adequate enough to deal with limited, small-scale aggression. I believe that we need to reexamine the basis for this conceptual idea and the current level of defense capacity.

There is an expression, a "minimum required level," and I think Japan's bureaucrats and policymakers came up with a wonderfully convenient expression. In fact, however, there is no doubt that we have taken expansionist views on this level since the 1980's. Yet, it is very difficult to define this level, both quantitatively and qualitatively, according to the limit imposed by our Constitution.

We recognize this difficulty, but we still have to reexamine our current defense structure. For example, reduction of personnel in the Ground Self-Defense Force was proposed by the Defense Issues Council, and heavy deployment of troops in Hokkaido is considered a problem area. I am also skeptical of the recent decision to introduce AWACS (airborne warning and control system). I think this decision was made because of the trade friction between Japan and the United States.

I also think it wasteful to have 100 P3C planes (submarine-spotting planes). Even the United States had only 45 of these planes in the western Pacific Ocean. We need to discuss in more concrete terms whether all this is necessary for Japan's security.

Second, we need to clarify in our law the valuable framework that has been developed by the governing and opposition parties over many years, including defense for defensive purposes only, the three non-nuclear principles, prohibition of arms export, the issue surrounding the right to collective defense, and no draft system. Such clarification will also be instrumental in letting foreign countries understand as evidence of our constitutional pledge that we are not going to become a military superpower. If we enact a basic law on security or a basic law on peace, that will lead to the lessening of Asian countries' worries about Japan's threat, I think.

Third, I believe that the SDF should be democratized internally. If we create a more open atmosphere on defense-related issues, such as the individual rights of SDF personnel and information disclosure, I think our Constitution will be able to apply its brakes effectively.

[Yatabe] Since the collapse of the Cold-War structure, the United States, Russia, and other European countries have been reducing their defense expenditures. In Japan,

however, the basic trend is still toward military expansion. As a result, Japan has the second largest military spending in the world. In response to this situation, for example, Korea's White Paper on National Defense has criticized strongly that Japan shows a sign of becoming a military superpower, and that it is gradually building up its defense capacity with attack capabilities by interpreting expansively the concept of defense for defensive purposes only.

In terms of equipment, Japan has introduced a series of weaponry that can be used for offensive purposes, such as AWACS, F15, and Aegis warships. Furthermore, the report by the Forum on Defense Issues suggests introduction of air-to-air refueling planes and large transport planes as well as research and development on TMD (Theater Missile Defense). Reduction of personnel to 240,000 is merely to conform with the actual number of existing personnel; there is no real reduction. We should pursue a true arms reduction by calling for a complete halt on introduction of weaponry and by drastically reducing the number of existing personnel. I think this is the major role for the Murayama Cabinet.

Also, I cannot agree to Mr. Uehara's idea on enacting a basic law on security, not only because doing so is to legitimize the constitutionality of the SDF and as a result, it is tantamount to constitutional revision, but also because Asian countries' worries over [Japanese] "threats" will not disappear unless Japan actually reduces its armaments.

[Yamasaki] A trend toward military expansion was just mentioned, and I would like to refute it, based on facts. For example, the defense budget request for the next fiscal year shows an increase of 0.9 percent from this year's budget—this has been considered as one of the achievements resulting from the formation of the LDP-SDPJ coalition government. Some people might say that it is still an increase, and thus military expansion. But, our defense expenditures contain a natural increase, which accounts for about 80 percent of the budget increase. The largest item in this natural increase relates to the costs of personnel and meals, which account for about 50 percent. Also, as a so-called host nation's support, we contribute a certain amount of money to supplement the expenses incurred by the U.S. troops stationed in Japan. This supplement includes salaries of Japanese employees, utility expenses, and so on. The increase in this amount and personnel costs combined represents a natural increase of about 130 billion yen for the fiscal 1995. The total amount of the defense budget is about 4,700 billion yen, and 0.9 percent of this is 42.3 billion yen. As the amount of natural increase is 130 billion yen, the defense budget in real terms has actually been cut back.

What I consider most problematic is reduction of the size of training programs. I don't know if you can call this as arms reduction, but I am strongly against it. The reason why we have the SDF is to prevent invasions, but

we cannot observe an actual discharge of this SDF's duty unless an invasion occurs. This is why the SDF cannot get adequate support from the public. As PKO is a visible activity, it is easy to understand. But, the SDF's essential mission to prevent invasions cannot be tested except under tragic circumstances. The most important aspect in maintaining a capacity to prevent invasions is a day-to-day training. When we consider all this, the recent budget represents a major cutback.

[Yatabe] But, all European countries as well as the United States and Russia have had been decreasing [their defense spending] in the past three to four years. I agree that an increase of 0.9 percent is small, but defense expenditures continue to increase.

And, about 20,000 new recruits are scheduled to be hired this year. For now, the number of new recruits should be cut by 10,000. I also think that a separate organization should be created for PKO to provide international cooperation in nonmilitary areas. At the United Nations, some people call for expansion and establishment of a permanent organization for civilian activities. I am suggesting that we can make international contributions by linking arms reduction in our SDF with the creation of such a separate organization—we can create peace cooperation troops, using materials, personnel, and funds freed from the SDF.

[Yamasaki] You cited the United States and England as examples. But, some of these countries have a draft system, and none of them have personnel costs that amount to 50 percent of their defense expenditures. I just wanted to point out that our country's defense expenditures have a unique structure.

Another point I want to make is that there is a critical problem in creating a separate organization. Creating such an organization would demoralize the SDF's personnel. Depending on the morale of about 200,000 SDF personnel, the SDF can be either a group of mere rocks or that of diamonds. If a separate organization is created to be in charge of international contributions, the public will applaud this organization. The SDF proper will be considered as "stealing tax money," because its true value is difficult to prove. The idea of creating a separate organization ignores the true nature of the SDF, and is a metaphysical argument at best. It will result in a tremendous waste of resources.

[Shirakawa] I think there is a difference in character between other countries' military forces and Japan's SDF, not only in terms of personnel costs, but also because of the fact that we don't have a draft system.

Recently, some very unpleasant arguments—the kinds that make me wonder if they understand our Constitution—have been advanced by, for example, the new-new party. These people are saying nonchalantly that they are not going to subscribe to the idea of unilateral pacifism, and that they will reject it. No matter how you look at it, our Constitution is based on unilateral pacifism.

The spirit of Article 9 of our Constitution is that we sincerely hope that other countries will not invade our country, and that we are not going to invade other countries or resort to the use of force for any reason, but that our country will fight resolutely against any invader. If you are ashamed of having such a Constitution, and say that our Constitution is outdated, I will question your view on Article 9 of our Constitution. If other countries subscribe to the same basic idea as ours, we will be able to live without worries.

Therefore, I don't understand on what basis they are saying that "we are not going to subscribe to unilateral pacifism," and that "we are going to make international contributions." I wonder on what rationale they are not satisfied with peace in our country alone, and why they want to send our troops to a region where other countries are fighting each other.

Is it a task for Japan? For example, the United States may want to stop military conflicts of other countries in the world. Japan doesn't have that kind of ability, and if it decides on its own to send its troops abroad, I think Asian countries in particular will be strongly against it.

Among Asian countries, Japan is the only one that waged a so-called imperialistic war. In this sense, Japan has a criminal record. I don't think we have a climate at present where Asian countries would accept our saying that we stop subscribing to unilateral pacifism and make international contributions from now on, not only in economic, cultural, and technological areas, but also in some military areas.

For 50 years after the war, Japan has not taken a wrong path under its Constitution. If there were any big mistakes, we would have to make major changes, but I don't think that's the case. Those people who think that unilateral pacifism is outdated are saying in effect that what we have done for 50 years was basically a mistake. I want them to explain to me what they think is wrong and what they want to do.

By the way, if we can hold a conference on Asian security, as Mr. Yatabe suggested, that will be a major step forward, I think. But, the process to reach that point is tenuous, because foreign countries still have a wary eye on Japan, and China is too big a country. The road to Asian security is a difficult one. But, if we can hold a conference on security like the one in Europe, and even if we cannot reach a consensus, having such a forum will make everyone participate in discussion on Asian security.

On the other hand, even though Asian countries became a theater for imperialistic warfare, they themselves have never fought against each other as European countries and the United States did. What our neighboring countries feel uneasy about—not so much as threats—seem to be Japan, China, and the United States, which has military bases in Japan and a network of connections with other countries. If these three countries decide to let

other countries take initiative, I think the debate on security issues in Japan will be smooth.

[Yatabe] Judging from our Constitution as well as the demands of the post-Cold War period, arms reduction is an urgent issue. Drastic reduction of nuclear weapons with the aim to completely eliminate nuclear [weapons], creation of non-nuclear zones, establishment of a system to guaranty peace, and along with these efforts, the question of how to cut back on the SDF and dissolve the security treaty—all these issues are upon us, regardless of our political-party affiliations. Also, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, these security issues are closely related to the question of how to materialize the idea of "coexistence," including elimination of the gap between the North and the South and that between the rich and the poor, development and the environment, and the human rights issue. These are the nonmilitary areas of international cooperation to which Japan is most expected to contribute by Asian countries.

[Profiles of the Discussants]

Kosuke Uehara was born in 1932 in Okinawa. He worked at a U.S. military base, but because he was discharged from service one-sidedly, he joined labor movements. As chairman of All Japan Garrison Forces Labor Union, he worked actively on anti-military-base movements and on reversion [of Okinawa]. In 1970, he was elected as a member of the House of Representatives for the first time. He was the Director General of the Okinawa Development Agency of the National Land Agency. At the Extraordinary National Convention in September 1994, he was appointed vice chairman of the SDPJ.

Osamu Yatabe was born in 1932 in Ibaragi Prefecture. He is a graduate of Chuo University and is a lawyer. In 1974, he was first elected as a member of the House of Representatives. Since then, he has been in office for four terms. He served as chairman of the Posts and Telecommunications Committee, chairman of the Special Committee on the Environment, executive member of the PKO Subcommittee of the Budget Committee, and chairman of the SDPJ's Foreign Policy Study Committee. As chairman of the SDPJ's "Peace Strategy Study Group," he proposed a program for arms reduction.

Taku Yamasaki was born in 1936 in Fukuoka Prefecture, and graduated from Waseda University. In 1967, he became a member of the Prefectural Assembly in Fukuoka. In 1972, he was elected as a member of the House of Representatives. He has been in office for eight terms. He became parliamentary vice minister of the Defense Agency in 1980, deputy chief cabinet secretary in 1984, director general of the Defense Agency during the Uno cabinet in 1989, and minister of the Construction Ministry in 1991. He worked actively to form the Murayama coalition government of the LDP and the SDPJ. He is currently a member of the governing parties' conference on defense readjustment.

Katsuhiko Shirakawa was born in 1945 in Niigata Prefecture. He is a graduate of Tokyo University and is a lawyer. He opened a law office in Tokyo, but in 1975 he returned to his home base to begin political activities. In 1979, as an independent, he was elected as a member of the House of Representatives. Later, he became a member of the LDP. He became parliamentary vice minister of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications in 1987. He was unsuccessful in the 1990 election, but reelected in 1993. This is his fifth term. He represents the "Riberaru Seiken o Tsukuru Kai" [Group To Create a Liberal Administration].

* New Stage of Political Realignment Begins

952B0031A Tokyo SENTAKU in Japanese Nov 94 pp 52-54

[Text] Although the extraordinary Diet session opened in October, the content of the Diet debates has been dull and elusive.

Because the debates have lacked focus, television ratings on all the political programs have plummeted. Nowadays in Nagata-cho, one constantly hears the phrase: "it seems as if there are no opposition parties." The views of political parties, such as the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], and others, but excluding the Japan Communist Party, are really not that different. Therefore, discussions usually lack enthusiasm and are too detailed.

For the first time in the past half-century of the postwar period, the political situation has become very unusual. We cannot see any fundamental differences among the political parties regarding Diet issues, such as tax reform, political reform, and the United Nations and Self-Defense Forces. One would think that there would not be much political opposition on these issues, because party views on such matters do not differ much. But the situation is just the opposite.

I believe the drastic policy change of the SDPJ has temporarily brought about this extraordinary situation, in which there is nearly "no contention" among parties. However, a new opposition, based on a party's individual basic policy line, is growing. Perhaps a period of time is needed to bring about policy distinctions, which are geared to the tide of political realignment.

Ozawa Talked About His Health Condition For The First Time

Now, Shinseito Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, who has played a key role in political realignment, seems to be standing on shaky ground these days.

This is because a movement to "escape from Ozawa" has surfaced within Shinseito. Moreover, among the members of the former coalition parties, there is a deep-rooted resistance to Ozawa's handling of certain matters. Consequently, there is an atmosphere that has prompted

party members to try to form a new-new party, one that is distant from Ozawa's influence.

A Shinseito leader who belongs to the anti-Ozawa group stressed: "Ozawa's unsuccessful attempt at the end of June to support Kaifu as prime minister is still having a damaging effect. Ozawa was too confident that he would win, judging that he could induce the LDP and SDPJ to split. Also, Ozawa was too optimistic, and his misjudgment cost us political power. Because of his flawed judgment, he should have taken responsibility for his defeat and stepped down. But on the contrary, he placed himself at the center of the executive committee, which is responsible for preparing for the new-new party. This should look odd to all concerned." This comment by this leader made good sense.

However, another Shinseito leader remarked: "Certainly Ozawa cannot help being criticized for the way he does things unexpectedly, but that sort of risky game [during the political upset at the end of June] does not allow for group consensus. Besides, what Ozawa wants to do is consistent, and he is not just trying to retain political power. The majority opinion at that time favored another Hata cabinet by going along with the demands of the SDPJ. But if we did that, it would be repeating the same mistakes. Unless the coalition can work towards political realignment, while following a basic policy line, the traditional-type power struggle would resurface. Ozawa placed his priority on straightening twisted policies.

The opposing opinions of Ozawa by the above leaders contain a significant "point." Ever since the summer of 1993, there have been rapid changes in administrations from Miyazawa to Murayama, making it look like a political power-game succession. The new LDP-SDPJ-Sakigake coalition government is the extreme example of this political situation, because the coalition government was formed, before it decided on its basic line of policy. It can be said that Ozawa, at least, prioritized his policy line, but he lost political power.

Moreover, Ozawa's actions have to do with the question of why political realignment is promoted. If political realignment is pushed forward without giving consideration to a basic policy line, ignoring extreme positions, it would not only slow down political reorganization, but also would cause further confusion. I believe Ozawa was thinking about this problem.

Ozawa officially talked about his health for the first time in an interview with the ASAHI SHIMBUN dated 15 October. When the reporter asked: "Is your concern about your poor health one of the reasons why you are not pursuing political power? People speculate that your frequent visits to Europe have to do with your health."

Ozawa replied affirmatively: "You can say that. Ever since I was hospitalized for heart illness, I have concluded that it is useless to work too hard by myself. The

trend [for political realignment] has been set, and it is true that I now feel that it is better to take it easy."

Ozawa's reply clearly indicates 1) his frequent visits to Europe were for heart treatment, and 2) as a result of his illness, he now believes that he should "take it easy." In other words, he would not play an up-front role in politics.

In the past, Ozawa has made similar comments, but mainly to point out his preference to stay in the background, and such comments were regarded by others as being politically motivated. However, his intention to stay behind the scenes was confirmed in the interview with ASAHI SHIMBUN.

Earlier in April, ASAHI SHIMBUN reported Ozawa's comment that "I can sleep with any woman that I like." Since then, Ozawa and ASAHI have been on bad terms. Even this recent interview has been criticised by the media for the way in which they reached reconciliation. However, it is likely that Ozawa means what he says.

Ozawa's health is an important political issue. If his activities depend greatly on the state of his health, we need to view the political situation from a different angle.

The former coalition parties, including Ozawa's Shinseito, have decided to form a new-new party on 10 December. They have begun formal preparations and have invited the public to propose a name for the new party. However, the decision to name the head of the party, which will play a decisive part in presenting the party image, is still up in the air.

Signs of Ozawa Retreating From an Up-Front Role

At first, it was commonly believed that the head of the new party would be selected from the three former prime ministers, Kaifu, Hosokawa, and Hata. But the decision to choose one of the three has become difficult. Then, there was a strong speculation that the Executive Committee Chairman Ozawa would surely hold the number-two post of secretary general.

A Shinseito leader said: "We have ended by reversing the selection procedure and have begun looking for a party head who would work well with Ozawa. We ruled out Hosokawa, because of his implication in the Sagawa Kyubin scandal; the Hata-Ozawa combination would mean too much leadership by Shinseito; thus, the general consensus was that a Kaifu-Ozawa combination would be the safest. Besides, Kaifu had our support when he sought the premiership against Murayama. Even Komeito, our second-largest party, agreed that Kaifu would be okay."

But Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] Chairman Takashi Yonezawa objected, saying, "It is only reasonable to pick one leader from among the former LDP members and another one from the other groups." Yonezawa claims that if Ozawa is selected as secretary

general, then the party head should be chosen from among candidates from Komeito, the Japan New Party, and the DSP. This makes sense.

However, Ozawa promptly said: "If selecting the party head is going to cause confusion, why don't we wait until after the party is formed and then choose him," thus, holding Yonezawa's claim in check.

Of course Ozawa was not serious. It was as though he threatened the DSP by calling for a "headless party if the DSP continues to be demanding about selection of the new party head.

Recently, sources close to Ozawa said: "Ozawa has never intended to be secretary general. He only wanted to pave the way for the new party and then stay in the background. Perhaps Kaifu would be the party head. Because Ozawa forced Kaifu to make a decision and dragged him out of the LDP, he feels responsible for Kaifu. We cannot brush him aside and choose someone else. Perhaps Ozawa is thinking about choosing Hata as the secretary general from the largest party—Shinseito. Ozawa is very much aware of the feelings of those opposed to him within and outside of Shinseito. If Hata were to be the secretary general, he could alleviate those feelings."

In addition, a certain Komeito leader, who supports Kaifu, said decisively: "Ozawa will not be the secretary general." The plan to team up Kaifu and Hata seems to go along with Ozawa's statement about his health.

Nevertheless, personnel matters are never clear until the last minute. The new party to be formed has been called "Ozawa's new party," but it appears Ozawa is gradually retreating into the background. But, until now, when considering the process of forming this new-new party, it is hard to envision the new-new party "without Ozawa." The matter is going to require delicate handling in order to attain good results.

On 17 October, Ozawa attended Keidanren's [Federation of Economic Organizations] political reform meeting and made noteworthy remarks, stressing an imminent political realignment to dissolve inconsistencies involving basic policy lines. He said: "There will be another political realignment in the near future, before the next general election. A new era was created last year by the LDP versus anti-LDP structure. There are some members among the former coalition who believe that there is no difference between the policy of the parties in power and the new-new party. But I disagree. Our direction in promoting a small government and in deregulation is not the same as the goal of the administration. However, regarding international contributions, we would like to adopt a mutual collective security, but there are varied views on this issue among the opposition parties."

About the same time, in a 15 October interview with ASAHI SHIMBUN, Ozawa also pointed out that the

SDPJ will initiate the move to get rid of policy inconsistencies. Ozawa said: "There will be another party reorganization. I am not sure of the timing though. In particular, the SDPJ will have problems in next year's unified local elections and the upper house election. The SDPJ's central office will support the LDP-SDPJ coalition, but the local offices will not follow the direction of the central office. There will be major inconsistencies."

The End of Year Can Be Unsettling

As if in response to Ozawa's observation, the idea of a "new democratic liberal party" rose, led by SDPJ Secretary General Kubo. This instantly added a smoldering air to the political scene.

On 22 October, the SDPJ held a national election committee meeting at Atami City in Shizuoka Prefecture and acknowledged the secretary general's report, which stated: "Our party will not join with the new-new party, which is being organized by the opposition. Instead, we will aim for a multiparty system and strive to join forces with the socialist and liberal groups to become one of the forces of the tripolar political structure. To achieve this goal, we need to expand our wings to recruit members of socialist and liberal strata among both old and new conservative camps. We need to determine the timing for forming this new democratic liberal party."

Secretary General Kubo's idea to set up a new party to form a third tripolar force counters the SDPJ's position, which earlier formed a coalition with the LDP and even gained the premiership for its own party. Kubo's move was not unexpected, but it stirred a turbulent air in the SDPJ.

Kubo's move also gave the impression that Ozawa's indication was accurate. On 24 October, two days after Kubo's paper was reported, Ozawa said encouragingly: "Kubo's idea of a new party is not much different from what we are aiming at."

A half-baked attempt to support Kaifu for prime minister has, after some four months, come up again. At the end of June, Ozawa chose not to cooperate with the SDPJ, but supported Kaifu, and by doing so hoped to split the SDPJ. However, his plan failed. At that time, Kubo and his right-wing group held fast to cooperating with Ozawa once again, but they were finally forced by the left-wing group, led by Prime Minister Murayama and Construction Minister Koken Nosaka, to form a coalition government with the LDP.

Kubo specifically said in his report that he would "not choose" to join the new-new party, but I believe that he was only making an official point. It is said that the relationship between Ozawa and Kubo is quite close and bounded in trust, beginning in summer 1993 through the changing alignment of political parties.

However, considering an anti-Ozawa sentiment, which also permeates the SDPJ, it is hard to determine right away if the new Kubo party will merge with Ozawa's

new-new party. But we must consider it a future possibility. If Kubo's group adheres to the tripolar political structure, a coalition between the new-new party and the Kubo's new party can be envisioned.

A new stage for the third political alignment, which follows the non-LDP coalition (the Hosokawa administration) and the anti-Ozawa coalition (the Murayama administration), is about to begin. There will be a bitter survival race in the general election under the new election system. It appears that the political situation at the end of the year will be quite turbulent.

North Korea

Daily on Kim Yong-sam's Effect on N-S Relations

*SK2511055794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455
GMT 25 Nov 94*

["With Nothing Can He Atone for Criminal Pursuit of North-South Confrontation"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA)—The traitor Kim Yong-sam has driven the North-South relations back to the worst phase. This is the most heinous of his crimes, which can never be condoned.

NODONG SINMUN today stresses this in a commentary on the lapse of one year and nine months since Kim Yong-sam took office.

The news analyst says:

The traitorous clique of Kim Yong-sam began its work with resuming the Team Spirit nuclear war exercises which his predecessors suspended under criticism from home and foreign public.

When we called for peaceful reunification based on great national unity, the traitor Kim Yong-sam overtly declared confrontation, saying that he could not "shake hands" with the North over its fictitious "nuclear issue." When the entire Koreans in the North, the South and overseas were hoping that the North-South agreement that had been adopted and effectuated would be implemented and would lead to peaceful reunification, the South Korean warlikers nullified the documents agreed upon between the North and the South and rushed headlong toward war, openly crying for "military countermove."

The Kim Yong-sam clique asked outside forces to "take sanctions," "establish a cooperation system" and "make a strong countermove" by force of arms against the North, while taking the lead in the campaign of the imperialist reactionaries over the nuclear issue to do harm to the fellow countrymen in the North.

The traitor Kim Yong-sam let no chance pass by without making bellicose outcries and outdistanced by far his

predecessors in mobilizing all the manpower and material resources of South Korea in war preparations against the North.

If Kim Yong-sam had taken the road to North-South reconciliation and unity with his own spirit, a turning point would have been made in North-South relations.

By rushing headlong along the road to confrontation and war, the traitorous clique of Kim Yong-sam destroyed the foundation for the development of North-South relations, drove the situation back to the original point of confrontation before the adoption of the agreement and inflicted heavy disasters on fellow countrymen.

Reviewing the one year and nine months of Kim Yong-sam's office, the people have reached the conclusion that as long as the traitor remains in power, peace cannot be settled on the Korean peninsula, the country cannot be reunified peacefully and the nation cannot avoid the scourge of war.

Kim Yong-sam's Southeast Asian Trip Denounced

*SK2411045294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442
GMT 24 Nov 94*

["Mendicant Trip of Traitor"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today brands Kim Yong-sam's recent trip to a Southeast Asian country as a trip during which he spoiled even his "presidential image" by soliciting others for help without his own principle.

The news analyst says:

This time, too, the traitor Kim Yong-sam entreated outside forces to "establish a cooperation system" over the "nuclear issue." This is the height of wickedness.

His outcry for "cooperation system" concerning the implementation of the framework agreement between the DPRK and the United States was prompted by his sinister intention to poke his nose into the implementation of the agreement, improve his poor image and hamper the implementation itself. His call deserves nothing but criticism and scorn at home and abroad.

Kim Yong-sam asked others to "exercise their influence" on the North so that it may respond to "inter-Korean dialogue and economic cooperation." It was also foolish indeed. If he were willing to solve the problem of peace and reunification of the country through North-South dialogue from the stand of national independence, he should not have asked help of outside forces. Without foreign interference, North-South dialogue will be held and make a smooth progress. Over the one year and nine months since he took office, he has unilaterally shut the door of North-South dialogue and blocked any move for North-South reconciliation, unity and reunification. The crimes committed by Kim Yong-sam, driving the North-South relations to the worst phase, are too grave and

heinous for him to conceal his anti-national, anti-reunification nature with cries for "dialogue" and "cooperation" which he does not wish in his heart.

During his trip, he talked as if South Korean society had been "democratized" in an attempt to get rid of isolation at home and abroad. But, he could not convince anyone with the empty talk.

His trip has brought into bolder relief his dirty colour as a charlatan, traitor and degenerate who has no political principle or philosophy, remains indifferent to the country and the nation and has abandoned ethics.

Kim Yong-sam Clique Criticized for Arrests

*SK2511051994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432
GMT 25 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA)—The Kim Yong-sam clique must act with discretion, looking straight at the trend of history and the aspiration of the nation, abolish the "National Security Law", an anti-national, anti-reunification evil law, unconditionally and immediately release Kang Hui-nam, Yi Chang-pok and other patriotic figures for reunification and stop suppressing all the reunification, patriotic movement of South Korea at once.

The Central Committee of the North side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification said this in a statement on November 24.

It is one more vicious challenge to the desire of all the fellow countrymen for national unity and reunification that the traitor Kim Yong-sam applied the notorious "National Security Law" to Permanent Chairman Yi Chang-pok of the National Alliance for Democracy and Reunification (Chongukyonhap) in South Korea to inflict a punishment on him under the pretext that he formed the South side' headquarters for the promotion of the fifth pan-national rally and decided to open the pan-national rally in Seoul, the statement noted, and went on:

The pan-national rallies held five times clearly show that the rally is a peaceful one held in the idea of national reunification and the great unity of the nation, the desire of the whole nation, not the demand and interest of any one side.

Branding the promotion of the pan-national rally as "an illegal act" and penalizing it in view of the "National Security Law" betrays the stupidity and brutality of Kim Yong-sam who does not know what is justice and what is truth.

The Kim Yong-sam clique's demand for a penalty on Yi Chang-pok is an open declaration of its intention to villainously crack down upon Chongukyonhap and the National Council for Independence and Peaceful Reunification and a shameful attempt to stamp out all the civil

reunification movement forces of South Korea who want national unity and the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The more desperately the Kim Yong-sam clique tries, the faster its ruin is precipitated.

We will never pardon the Kim Yong-sam clique prolonging its remaining days with treachery and count its felony without fail.

Kim Yong-sam's Suppression of Dissident Denounced

SK2511082294 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1222 GMT 23 Nov 94

[Commentary by Kim Ho-sam: "The Antireunification Elements Will Be Made To Pay Dearly for Their Unparalleled Grave Crime Without Fail"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to broadcast reports from Seoul, the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique of South Korea opened a murderous trial at the puppet Seoul District Prosecutor's Office on 22 November. At the trial, the Kim Yong-sam clique demanded a sentence of four years' imprisonment and four years' suspended rights for Yi Chang-pok, permanent chairman of the National Alliance for Democracy and National Reunification [Chongungnyonhap], on charges of the violation of the National Security Law.

The bastards doled out such a punishment for his having formed the South side's Headquarters for holding the Fifth Pannational Rally with 65 organizations, including Chongungnyonhap's 16 affiliated organizations and 12 regional organizations, and having been involved in holding a pannational rally in Seoul.

The fascist violent act by the puppets is another vicious challenge to all Korean people in the North and South and abroad who yearn for the fatherland's independent, peaceful reunification and arouses mounting indignation among our people.

Neither the formation of the South side's Headquarters for holding the Fifth Pannational Rally nor the hosting of this rally is any problem. As has already been known, the 26 May meeting of co-chairmen of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification [Pomminnyon] decided to hold the Fifth Pannational Rally in Seoul lawfully and publicly. It was decided that the South side's Headquarters of Pomminnyon would be the chief organizer of the Fifth Pannational Rally, a work for achieving unity among compatriots in the North and South and abroad, and that the South side's Headquarters and other organizations that accepted the tenor of the Pannational Rally and its tradition would jointly host the Pannational Rally.

Under this plan, as representative of Chongungnyonhap's 16 affiliated organizations and 12 regional organizations, Yi Chang-pok, permanent chairman of

Chongungnyonhap, joined in the formation of the South side's Headquarters for holding the Fifth Pannational Rally and got involved in holding the rally. How can such a deed of his be an act beneficial to the North? This is extremely unreasonable.

The Kim Yong-sam clique called Yi Chang-pok's deed an act beneficial to the enemy and described the Seoul Pannational Rally as an illegal gathering. The Kim Yong-sam clique's act is an illegal, uncouth act only the enemy of the nation who opposes the country's reunification can commit. The Pannational Rally, true to its title, is a patriotic festival of reunification of all compatriots in the North and South and abroad who yearn for the fatherland's reunification, a festival designed to promote reconciliation and unity and open the road toward the country's independent, peaceful reunification. Needless to say, the pioneers who took the lead in the movement to reunify the fatherland are proud sons of all fellow countrymen. Therefore, they must not be suppressed but be praised as a matter of course. Nevertheless, the Kim Yong-sam clique, after detaining those pioneers in the reunification movement, said that it would shackle them. Then, where else can one find more vicious an enemy to the nation and reunification? This will make even a beast blush. Our people indignantly condemn and denounce the Kim Yong-sam murderous fascist clique for punishing Yi Chang-pok, permanent chairman of Chongungnyonhap, under the National Security Law and demand that the demand for his punishment be canceled at once.

When we look back, murderous fascist villain [aktang] Kim Yong-sam committed bestial brutalities unprecedented in history to block this year's Pannational Rally. On 14 and 15 August, when the Fifth Pannational Rally was held, the bastards fired tear gas canisters from the ground and the air and launched suppression offensives against barefisted young people, students, and citizens.

Our people will never forget the unparalleled grave crime by murderous villain Kim Yong-sam, who, to break up the closing ceremony of the Pannational Rally, mobilized even five helicopters and sprayed four tonnes of tear gas over the heads of the participants in the rally and injured thousands of people. They will also make him pay dearly for his crime.

Without being satisfied with its restaging of the blood bath of Kwangju 14 year ago, the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique continuously arrests and detains patriotic people who aspire for reunification. However, this is a mere desperate wriggling of those who have no future. The South Korean people doled out a stern judgment for traitor Kim Yong-sam long ago. The South Korean young people, students, and people in general, who strictly adhere to justice and do not reconcile with injustice, will deal a hard blow to the Kim Yong-sam nation-selling, treacherous group, a vicious fascist dictator and mean divisionist, without fail.

Kim Yong-sam Allegedly Protecting 'Murderers'

SK2511103294 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021*
GMT 25 Nov 94

["Just Struggle Reflecting Demand for Democracy"—
KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA)—A commentary of MINJU CHOSON today estimates the struggle of the South Korean people demanding the punishment of the culprits of "December 12 incident" in 1979 which is getting fiercer day by day as an absolutely just one reflecting their will to decisively punish the traitors Chun Tu-hwan and No Tae-u who committed heinous crimes against democracy and reunification depending on foreign forces, after seizing power at the point of the bayonet and to realize independence and democracy in society.

The signed commentary says:

Chun Tu-hwan and No Tae-u, the chief culprits of the "December 12 Army purge coup," are the destroyers of democratic development, the chieftains of the Kwangju massacre and military scoundrels who not only blocked democratic development in South Korea at the point of the bayonet and drowned Kwangju in a sea of blood but also inflicted all misfortunes and sufferings upon the people with the military fascist dictatorship of the "Fifth and Sixth Republics".

They should have been punished already. However, the traitor Kim Yong-sam, far from punishing them, did not prosecute or arrest them but is protecting them. This is because he is the same with Chun Tu-hwan and No Tae-u and the present "regime" is an extension of the fascist "regimes" of the "Fifth and Sixth Republics". The South Korean people will not forgive the crime of the traitor Kim Yong-sam who is protecting the murderers, and not lay down the banner of struggle until their demands are met.

**ROK's Methods To Suppress Demonstrations
Noted**

SK2411044594 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436*
GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA)—The Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] in Information No. 663 on November 23 denounced the Kim Yong-sam group for taking the fascist repressive rule as a means of propping up "power".

The Kim Yong-sam group recently announced that "control line of police" would be drawn at rally places and demonstrators breaking into it would be sternly punished and policemen would use against demonstration Israel-made water guns, liquefied gas sprayers and heavy clubs, 35 centimetres longer than those they are now using.

The Kim Yong-sam group's introduction of more brutal mode of suppression and import of new-type repressive tools are a last-ditch effort to save by violence the crisis of their rule driven into a corner, isolated within and without for their anti-national, anti-ethical crimes, the information said, and continued:

The Kim Yong-sam group is trying to crack down on the patriotic action of the students and people calling for independence, democracy and reunification at the point of bayonet, branding it as "illegal", and to prolong its power. But this is a foolish dream.

Their intensified fascist suppression only shows that their days are numbered.

Trade Deficit Existing in South Korea Reported

SK2411100994 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1003*
GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppet clique suffered a deficit of 7,390 million dollars in trade till November 17 this year, according to a radio report from Seoul.

This shows an increase of more than two times over that in the same period of last year.

South Korea, whose economy depends on foreign countries, made a trade gap due to the short of raw materials from the beginning of the year and it is being steadily widened.

People of ROK Reportedly Praise Kim Chong-il

SK2511045694 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425*
GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA)—South Korean people are now highly praising the greatness of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and ardently revering him as the leader of the nation and the political leader of the world, according to radio Voice of National Salvation from Seoul.

A university professor in Pusan told his students:

Mr. Kim Chong-il, who perfectly personified the chuche idea founded by the great President Kim Il-song and followed by all people and is successfully applying it in reality, is the outstanding thinker, theoretician and practitioner of our times who has made a distinguished contribution to the world history of philosophy.

It is because Mr. Kim Chong-il, a great master of philosophy, is pursuing an independent politics that socialism of the North is making a long drive, standing high in the centre of the world as it is today.

A student Yi expressed sympathy with his story and said:

The socialism of the North led by General Kim Chong-il is a unique socialism centred on the popular masses shining with independence.

Indeed, General Kim Chong-il is the sun of guidance who is keeping the ideal society centred on the people in full bloom in this land and the great man whom our nation should uphold and follow forever.

A professor of politics at Seoul National University told his students:

It is thanks to the outstanding leadership ability of the leader Kim Chong-il that the North is leading international politics as it intended, standing in its centre.

The leader Kim Chong-il with literary and military accomplishments combined in him successfully carries out whatever he determines to do because his judgement is correct.

There is neither a leader nor a great man who can match his judgement and leadership ability. The attention of the world is now turning toward the North, toward the leader Kim Chong-il.

Yi In-chol, member of the Kyonggi Provincial Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front, said:

Comrade Kim Chong-il is the only great man of ideology and theory at the present times and the everlasting sun who indicates the road of the progressive humankind aspiring after socialism.

I will devote my all to discharge my important duty as the vanguard of the revolutionary movement in South Korea, bearing deep in mind the pride and honour of holding such a great person as dear Comrade Kim Chong-il in high esteem as the leader of the nation.

Student Council Delegate Stresses Reunification

*SK2411050994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457
GMT 24 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA)—Choe Chong-nam, delegate of the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon), was interviewed by reporters here on November 21.

He could make sure once again of the burning vigor of the fellow countrymen in the North for reunification during his stay in the Northern half of Korea, he said, and noted: "I could know that their fervour for national reunification soared higher after the death of President Kim Il-song and their conviction of it became stronger."

Giving his impressions of the national memorial service for the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song on the hundredth day of his death, he stated that he felt how deeply the fellow countrymen in the North are cherishing the image of President Kim Il-song.

He said he could see that the compatriots in the North are full of the determination to be more loyal to General Kim Chong-il than they were to President Kim Il-song.

Noting that as he participated in the ceremony for the completion of the reconstruction of the Tomb of King Tangun, he deeply felt the great efforts of President Kim Il-song to find out the first king of the Korean nation, he said that he could not repress indignation at the anti-national acts of the Kim Yong-sam "regime" in blocking the compatriots in the South from taking part in the ceremony.

Exploring Mt. Paektu, he made up his mind to devote his life to the struggle for reunification, not abandoning his faith as the anti-Japanese martyrs did, he stressed.

Pointing to his resolution for struggle as co-director of the Secretariat of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification, he said that he will wage a vigorous struggle in the van of the youth and students in the North, the South and overseas to greet 1995 as the first year of reunification.

Rallies Held To Urge Repatriation of 'POW's'

*SK2511055494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444
GMT 25 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA)—Mass rallies were held in Sinuiju city of North Pyongan Province, Pyongsong City of South Pyongan Province and Haeju city of South Hwanghae Province from November 22 to 24 to urge the repatriation of old Kim In-so, Ham Se-hwan and Kim Yong-tae, unconverted long-term prisoners in South Korea, to the northern half of Korea.

At the rallies the speakers said that the South Korean authorities, not content with having taken old Kim In-so, Ham Se-hwan and Kim Yong-tae behind bars for more than 30 years for the mere reason that they refused to be converted ideologically, are not sending them back to the North, placing them under supervision by invoking the evil law called "the law on supervision for public peace" and ruthlessly trampling underfoot their human rights after they were set free.

The desire of the unconverted long-term prisoners to return to the northern half of the country is very just in view of the international law on the POWs and the principle of humanitarianism, they stressed, and noted:

The South Korean rulers' blocking of the return of the unconverted long-term prisoners is a bestial act and human rights violation of those who do not know the humanitarian idea and are indifferent to the international law.

If the South Korean authorities who handcuffed the guiltless people for scores of years and left painful wounds in their hearts do not return the old men near the age of 70 so that they may live the remaining days in peace with their children, they will meet bitterer curses and denunciation from the nation and humankind.

Pyongyang Women Urge Repatriation of Prisoners

*SK2311213394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1516
GMT 23 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 23 (KCNA)—A Pyongyang women's meeting was held today to urge the repatriation of old Kim In-so, Ham Se-hwan and Kim Yong-tae, unconverted long-term prisoners in South Korea, to the northern half of Korea.

The old men were arrested while serving in the People's Army and guerrilla units during the fatherland liberation war (June 25, 1950- July 27, 1953) and should have been returned to their hometowns under the Korean Armistice Agreement and the international law.

Chong Myong-hui, vice-chairwoman of the Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Women's Union, Kim Chong-sim who is daughter of Kim In-so and others spoke at the meeting.

Kim In-so, Ham Se-hwan and Kim Yong-tae requested several times the South Korean Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other human rights organisations to help them return to the North and sent letters to their families out of their wish to come back to the northern half of the country without fail, the speakers said, stressing that the desire of the unconverted long-term prisoners to come back to the North is very just in view of the international law and in view of humanitarianism.

They pointed out that the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the DPRK have taken all necessary steps for their repatriation.

The South Korean ruling quarters try to brand them as "offenders", in a bid not to send them back, the speakers noted, adding it is an unreasonable trick. They bitterly denounced the anti-popular barbarous act of the Kim Yong-sam clique.

They urged the South Korean authorities to give up the scheme of abusing the repatriation of the unconverted long-term prisoners for a sinister political purpose and send them back to the DPRK at once.

The South Korean rulers must scrap the "National Security Law", an anti-reunification evil law, release the unconverted long-term prisoners, who are still kept behind bars, without delay and stop the violation of their human rights at once, they stressed.

Overseas Groups Praise Geneva Framework Accord

*SK2411215494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511
GMT 24 Nov 94*

[“Biggest Diplomatic Victory of Party Leadership and People of Korea”—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang November 24 (KCNA)—The DPRK-U.S. agreed framework has been

hailed by the Foreign Ministry of Syria and a public organisation and figures of different countries.

The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of Syria in a press statement hailing the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework said that the government and people of Syria welcomed the agreed framework adopted between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America, regarding the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

The Ghanaian National Institute of the Chuche Idea in a statement said:

The success at the Geneva talks is not only a brilliant victory of the Korean people over the imperialists encroaching upon the sovereignty of the country and the dignity of the nation but also a victory of the third world countries. This success was gained under the wise leadership of his excellency Marshal Kim Chong-il, the great leader of the Korean people, and by the strong will of the Korean people closely united around him.

Parliamentarian Oliviero Diliberto[spelling of name as received], member of the leadership and the Secretariat of the Communist Re-Establishment Party of Italy and director of its party organ *Liberazione*, said in a statement:

U.S. President Bill Clinton sent a letter of assurances to Comrade Kim Chong-il, the leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, calling him the supreme leader. This is a sensational event.

The U.S. Presidents had never sent such a letter as that of assurances to heads of state of other countries. So, Clinton's letter means he recognizes the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il, the leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and his high authority as the successor to President Kim Il-song. This is the greatest diplomatic victory achieved by the party leadership and people of Korea.

Paulette Pierson, vice-chairman of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea and professor at Libre University of Brussels, in a letter to the chief of the DPRK general mission in France congratulated the Korean people on the brilliant success achieved under the wise leadership of his excellency Kim Chong-il, the successor to the cause of President Kim Il-song.

Caribbean Groups Support North-U.S. Agreement

*SK2511103094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002
GMT 25 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA)—Sixteen political parties and organisations of Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados including the Working People's Alliance of Guyana and the February 18th Movement of Trinidad and Tobago recently published a joint statement supporting the agreed framework between the DPRK and the United States.

Saying that the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework is an important document which both sides committed themselves to fully solve the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula and normalise the political and economic relations between the two countries, the statement expressed full support to this.

The document is of historical significance and of political importance because His Excellency Kim Chong-il, chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, instructed the head of the DPRK delegation for the DPRK-U.S. talks to sign the agreed framework, the statement stressed.

The statement said that the agreed framework containing consistent and positive efforts and initiatives of the DPRK for ultimate solution of the nuclear issue and the assurances of the U.S. President must be sincerely implemented.

U.S. 'Hard-Line Conservatives' Denounced

*SK2411043894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432
GMT 24 Nov 94*

["Unreasonable Acts"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA)—The U.S. bellicose circles are now crying for "the mobilization of military forces to cope with the threat by North Korea," while beefing up their Armed Forces in South Korea. They recently decided to permanently deploy Patriot missiles in the South Korea-based U.S. Forces.

Commenting on this, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says:

As for "the threat by North Korea," it is a fiction aimed at doing harm to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and justifying their antagonism against and pressure on it.

The U.S. hardline conservatives, however, are intentionally rendering the situation of the Korean peninsula strained, crying for military reinforcement to cope with "the threat by North Korea." This shows that they intend to obstruct the implementation of the DPRK-USA framework agreement by dint of military upper-hand and strength.

It is foolish of them to seek a military choice instead of drawing a lesson in relations with the DPRK.

This may spoil what is going on well now. The arms buildup in South Korea is contrary to the spirit of the DPRK-USA framework agreement and the trend towards disarmament.

The U.S. bellicose circles must stop unreasonable acts.

U.S. Urged To 'Immediately Withdraw Patriots'

*SK2511103894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030
GMT 25 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA)—The United States and the Kim Yong-sam

group recently decided to permanently deploy in South Korea-based U.S. Forces Patriot missiles which had already been brought into South Korea, according to a radio report from Seoul.

This move is dangerous development which render the situation of the Korean peninsula extremely acute again and drive the North-South relations to the phase of a total showdown. This is a never-to-be condoned undisguised military challenge to the North of Korea.

What is serious is that such a military provocation has been committed at a time when a prospect for detente on the Korean peninsula is in sight with the talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America concluded and the framework agreement put in the stage of implementation.

The DPRK-USA framework agreement clearly stipulates that the sides shall make joint efforts for the denuclearization, peace and security of the Korean peninsula.

The permanent deployment of Patriots in South Korea by the United States goes against the provisions of the framework agreement.

The permanent deployment of Patriots in South Korea fully reveals the intention of the bellicose quarters of the military of the United States and the Kim Yong-sam group to turn South Korea into an arms market for the U.S. munitions complex and into a nuclear forward base for invading the DPRK and other Northeast Asian nations. It also discloses the deliberate and intentional military plot of the U.S. hardline conservatives to threaten the DPRK militarily and make a forestalling attack on it.

The decision to deploy Patriots in South Korea came when some hardline conservatives and military bellicose circles of the United States have unhesitatingly made wicked, bellicose utterances, claiming that "the territory of North Korea is regarded as the first target of attack" and "military forces should be mobilized".

This indicates that now at the end of the Cold War the bellicose circles in the U.S. military are regarding the DPRK as the main target of aggression and continue recklessly trying to stifle its socialist system centred on the popular masses with strength.

But it is anachronistic and foolish mode of thinking. The strength cannot solve any problem and the military method will not bring any interest to the United States.

We cannot but take a serious view of the fact that the Kim Yong-sam group begged for the permanent deployment of Patriots in South Korea, clinging to the coattails of outside forces.

This fully shows once again that "cooperation" and "improvement of relations" advertised by the Kim Yong-sam group are nothing but empty talks for fooling public opinion and the puppets are still keeping a sharp-edged sword in their body against the North.

The United States would be well advised to look straight at the trend of the time, and it should not pursue suicidal policy of strength but take the road of detente and reconciliation, immediately withdraw Patriots from South Korea and stop forcing South Korea to buy its weapons.

The Kim Yong-sam group must not resort to despicable treacherous acts to slay fellow countrymen and batten the U.S. munitions complex but step down from power at an early date.

US-ROK 22-23 Nov Military Exercises Reported

*SK2511051694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434
GMT 25 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist warmaniacs and the South Korean puppets staged a military exercise against the North in the sky above Yangpyong, Kyonggi Province, and Hoengsong, South Korean Kangwon Province, on November 22 and 23, according to military sources.

Participating in this war game were scores of pursuit-assault planes and assault planes from the Pacific bases and some 400 fighter bombers and assault, observation and reconnaissance planes of the U.S. Air Force in South Korea and the South Korean puppet Airforce.

Meanwhile, on the 22nd 105 mm artillery groups and about 140 armed bandits of the South Korean puppet army in the western and central sectors of the front fired bullets and shells, getting on our nerves.

The war frenzy, timing to coincide with the "Hwarang" military exercises, is an intentional and premeditated move to extremely aggravate the situation of the Korean peninsula.

Delegate's Speech at UN General Assembly Noted

*SK2311151394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508
GMT 23 Nov 94*

["Speech of DPRK Delegate at 49th UN General Assembly"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 23 (KCNA)—The delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made a speech at the discussion of the item "Ten Years of UN International Law" at the Sixth Committee of the 49th UN General Assembly on November 16.

He said the principle of respect for state sovereignty should be strictly adhered to in the enactment and application of the international law.

He noted that the issues concerning the international law which had been dealt with improperly in the past should be properly judged and corrected.

Pointing out that the "Ulsa (1905) Five-Point Treaty" and all other "treaties" which legalized Japan's occupation of Korea and its colonial rule over Korea were criminal documents which encroached on the independence of a sovereign state and wholly ignored the principles of the international law, he said:

The "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" was an illegal, invalid false document which was fabricated and proclaimed by Japan unilaterally without the Emperor Kojong's approval and signature and the seal of state.

After unilaterally proclaiming the "treaty", the heinous Japanese aggressors occupied Korea and shaped "residency-general politics" by dint of the "treaty."

The Japanese authorities are now ignoring and denying the stark historical facts. This cannot be construed otherwise than a revelation of their intention to repeat Japan's past crimes.

They must admit that Japan unilaterally fabricated and proclaimed the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" and all other "treaties" and "law" documents which legalized its aggression of Korea and justified its colonial rule over Korea and make a proper apology for the colonial slavery and sufferings it imposed on the Korean nation.

On the 17th, the DPRK delegate refuted the speech of the Japanese delegate and said Japan unilaterally fabricated and made public the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" 89 years ago. He offered concrete materials clearly proving the "treaty" to be illegal and invalid.

He said the Japanese authorities have the effrontery to stupidly try to justify the history of the aggression of Korea, alleging that the "treaties" including the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" were "concluded legally" and available at that time.

Former JSDP Chairman on Japan-North Relations

*SK2511102794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016
GMT 25 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA)—Makoto Tanabe, former chairman of the Japan Social Democratic Party [JSDP], in a statement said that the starting point of the negotiations for normalisation of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the three-party joint declaration of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Liberal Democratic Party and the Social Democratic Party of Japan in 1990.

His statement was carried by SHAKAI SHIMPO, the organ of the JSDP, on November 18.

The negotiations for normalisation of diplomatic relations between Japan and the DPRK were held several times but only increased distrust between both sides, he said, adding:

Generally, the Japanese side is taking the negative attitude toward apology and compensation demanded by the Korean side, which makes the negotiations worse.

The only key to the deadlock is for Japan to say first voluntarily and conscientiously what it is going to apologize and compensate for, I think.

If it does not buckle down to this task, Japan may lose even the qualification to involve itself in the historical work of preserving peace on the Korean peninsula and in Asia.

As for the intergovernmental negotiations, they should have been held without preconditions. But the then Japanese Government raised such problems as the "problem of a Japanese woman" which were not directly linked with diplomatic relations. This is what I criticized.

The point at issue in the future negotiations is an expression of clear attitude towards the apology for the colonial domination and postwar compensation.

It is as clear as noonday that Japan has neglected the questions of "comfort women for the Army" and the forcible drafting even after the war.

Japan must also repent of the hostile policy against North Korea in the era of the Cold War.

Paper Warns Japan Against 'War Preparations'

*SK2511055594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0448
GMT 25 Nov 94*

["War Preparations for Aggression at Final Stage"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA)—The construction of a large underground oil tank promoted by the Japanese reactionaries in real earnest for "case of emergency" shows that Japan's war preparations for aggression have reached the final stage, declares NODONG SINMUN today.

The news analyst says:

Overseas aggression is an invariable ambition of the Japanese reactionaries.

The military equipment of the Japan "Self-Defence Forces" (SDF) has reached the world level. A remote communications system for command has been set up and the commanding system of the "SDF" renewed to cope with "case of emergency." What remains to be done to round off war preparations for overseas aggression is stockpile of strategic materials. Here, stockpile of oil is what the Japanese reactionaries regard as the most important.

The construction of a large underground oil tank is aimed at waging a war of aggression without delay even if the supply of oil from overseas is stopped in case of emergency.

The Japanese reactionaries openly declare that they will dispatch the "SDF" to Korea in case a war breaks out in Korea.

If they take the line of aggression and war, it will precipitate their own destruction.

They must act with discretion.

Japanese Urged To Compensate for 'Past Crimes'

*SK2411101594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007
GMT 24 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA)—The Japanese Government had better act with discretion, clearly mindful that it can never reverse history.

The Democratic Lawyers Association of Zimbabwe said this in a statement made public on November 16 on the lapse of 89 years since Japan's fabrication of the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty".

The "treaty" was an illegal document to stamp out old Korea from the world and justify Japan's colonization of Korea, the association noted, and went on:

The unlawfulness and nullification of the "treaty" was undeniably verified by the discovery of a personal letter of the then King Kojong of Korea who declared it null and void in view of the international law, but the Japanese Government has not recognized it till now nor approached the liquidation of the past with a sincere attitude.

It is a very shameless act for Japan to try to become a political power and military power, seeking permanent membership of the U.N. Security Council.

We strongly demand that the Japanese Government discontinue its hostile policy toward the Democratic People's Republic of Korea but frankly admit and compensate for all such crimes committed for nearly a half century as the colonial rule over Korea on the basis of the illegal "treaty" and the drafting of some 200,000 Korean women as "comfort women for the army?"

'Comfort Women' Issue Stressed

*SK2411044094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429
GMT 24 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA)—The Japanese Government must take legal responsibilities for the life of "comfort women" imposed by the Japanese Army upon hundreds of thousands of Asian women around World War II and compensate to the victims as soon as possible.

This was stressed on November 22 by the International Commission of Jurists in a final report on its fact-finding activities conducted in Japan, the Philippines and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in April last year.

Citing materials to expose the miserable life of the "comfort women for the Army" who were beaten, tortured and raped, not eating regular meals but suffering from venereal diseases, the report said:

In August 1993, the Japanese Government admitted, apologized for and investigated into the issue of the "comfort women for the Army", but this was intended to quell down the world public rather than to solve the issue.

The report urged the Japanese Government to make a thorough investigation.

Pointing out that the Japanese Government is concealing materials helpful toward probing the issue more deeply, the report said that there still remain the police's documents on "conscription" of women on the Korean peninsula.

It urged that the Japanese Government open all materials on the "comfort women for the Army" to the public, form a special forum within six months to hear and examine testimonies of the victims and deal promptly with lawsuits demanding compensation.

Foreign Parties Support Korean 'Just Cause'

*SK2511105594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011
GMT 25 Nov 94*

[All names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA)—Foreign party leaders expressed support to the just cause of the Korean people.

Chaudhry Hamid Nasir Chattha, president of the Pakistani Islamic League, said that the Korean people are successfully advancing under the wise leadership of His Excellency Kim Chong-il, repressing the deepest sorrow at the loss of his excellency the great leader President Kim Il-song. He was meeting the Korean ambassador to his country on November 21 when the latter paid him a farewell call.

He expressed the conviction that the Korean people will turn Korea into a more prosperous and powerful country by carrying out without fail the intention of his excellency the great leader President Kim Il-song under the leadership of His Excellency Kim Chong-il.

Youssef Amin Wali, general secretary of the Egyptian National Democratic Party, said that dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "Socialism Is a Science" clearly showed the secret of the triumphant Korean socialism, when he met the Korean ambassador to his country on November 19.

The adoption of the agreed framework between the DPRK and the United States showed to the world that the leadership of Korea is strong and the ideology and politics of his excellency the great President Kim Il-song are being carried forward.

H. Desmond Hoyte, leader of the People's National Congress of Guyana, told the Korean ambassador to his country on Nov. 11 that Guyana will continue to support the cause of the Korean people for national reunification.

Military Delegation Returns From Southeast Asia

*SK2311151794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508
GMT 23 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 23 (KCNA)—The DPRK military delegation headed by Choe Kwang, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, returned home today after visiting Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

It was met at the airport by Vice Marshal Kim Kwang-chin and other generals and officers of the Korean People's Army and the Vietnamese ambassador to Korea, the charge d'affaires ad interim of the Cambodian Embassy and the military attache of the Chinese Embassy here.

Anniversary of Mongolian State Commemorated

*SK2411043294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422
GMT 24 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA)—A film show and a friendship gathering took place here Wednesday on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the Mongolian state.

Mongolian Ambassador to Korea Sh. Gungaadorj and his embassy officials were present on invitation.

Present there were Minister of Finance Yun Ki-chong, chairwoman of the Korea-Mongolia Friendship Association; vice-chairwoman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries Chon Yon-ok and working people in the city.

The participants had a friendly talk prior to a Mongolian film.

Chang Chol Attends Mongolian Film Week Opening

*SK2511053194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438
GMT 25 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA)—The opening ceremony of a Mongolian film week was held in Pyongyang on November 24 on the 70th anniversary of the proclamation of the state of Mongolia.

Present there were Vice-Premier and Minister of Culture and Art Chang Chol, other officials concerned and working people in the city.

Mongolian ambassador to Korea SH. Gungaadorj and his embassy officials were invited there.

Speeches were made on the occasion.

Envoy Hosts Reception on Mongolian Anniversary

*SK2511055294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439
GMT 25 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA)—Mongolian Ambassador to Korea SH. Gungaadorj gave a reception here Thursday on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the proclamation of the Mongolian State.

Present there on invitation were Kim Song-ku, minister of Local Industry, Choe U-chin, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, and other officials concerned.

Greetings Sent to Mongolian Premier, Minister

*SK2511110094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034
GMT 25 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA)—Premier of the Administration Council Kang Song-san sent a message of greetings to Prime Minister of Mongolia P. Jasray on the 70th anniversary of the proclamation of the state of Mongolia.

The message expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries would further develop in the interests of the two peoples.

And Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam sent a message of greetings to Minister of Foreign Relations of Mongolia Tserenpiliyn Gombosuren on the occasion.

Envoy Bids Farewell to Pakistani Party Leader

*SK2411024894 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 23 Nov 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Choe Su-il, our country's ambassador to Pakistan, paid a farewell call on (Chaudhary Hammad Nachata Singh), chairman of the Pakistan Muslim League, on 21 November.

In the meeting, the ambassador conveyed greetings from the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to Chairman (Chaudhary Hammad Nachata Singh). The chairman expressed deep gratitude for this and asked the ambassador to convey his heartfelt greetings to His Excellency Kim Chong-il, the supreme leader [choego yongdoja] of the Korean people.

The chairman pointed out that the Korean people are triumphantly marching ahead under the wise leadership of His Excellency Kim Chong-il, overcoming the greatest sorrows of having lost his excellency the great leader President Kim Il-song.

He went on to say: Such an advance made by Korea stems from the fact that his excellency the great leader President Kim Il-song well brought up the Korean people

and that His Excellency Kim Chong-il's leadership is wise. Even though his excellency the great leader President Kim Il-song passed away to our regrets, he will remain forever in the hearts of the people of third countries. We strongly believe that the Korean people will turn Korea into a powerful, prosperous country under His Excellency Kim Chong-il's leadership, in hearty response to the lifetime wish of his excellency the great leader President Kim Il-song. The Pakistan Muslim League will further develop and strengthen the friendly relations with the Workers' Party of Korea and will invariably support the Korean people's cause.

Greetings Sent to Lebanese Assembly President

*SK2511110294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036
GMT 25 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA)—Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] Yang Hyong-sop sent a message of greetings to the president of the National Assembly of Lebanon, Nabih Birri, on the occasion of the national day of Lebanon.

Expressing the belief that the friendly relations between the two parliaments would develop favourably in the interests of the two peoples, the message wished him success in the work for the peace and stability of the country.

Foreign Officials Visit Kim Il-song's Statue

*SK2411051294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459
GMT 24 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA)—A visiting group of the Socialist Party of Kazakhstan headed by its co-chairmen P.V. Svoik and G.K. Aldamzarov and a delegation of the Chinese side of the Board of Directors of the Korea-China Hydro-Electric Power Company headed by Wang Xicheng, vice-minister of power industry, called at the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill here on Wednesday, laid bouquets of flowers before the statue and observed a moment's silence.

Noting that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was the greatest of the great men, G.K. Aldamzarov said that his death was the biggest loss and bitterest grief to the Korean people as well as to the people all over the world.

P.V. Svoik said that a great many people are visiting the statue on Mansu Hill to honour the memory of the great leader and that they will remember him forever.

Egyptian Embassy Officials Visit

*SK2511052994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437
GMT 25 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA)—Faruk Mabruk, charge d'affaires ad interim, and other officials of the Egyptian Embassy in Pyongyang on November 24 visited the statue of the

great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang and paid a silent tribute to his memory after laying bouquets of flowers before it.

Noting that the great leader built Korea into a prospering country and devotedly struggled for world peace and security, Faruk Mabruk said that his immortal exploits will be always remain in the hearts of the Korean people and the world people who are struggling for freedom and liberation.

Kim Il-song's Name Said Honored Overseas

*SK2411101994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013
GMT 24 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA)—A ceremony for naming "Generalissimo Kim Il-song Street" was held recently in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, with the participation of thousands of people.

Earlier, Guira de Melena Agricultural School in Havana Province, Cuba was named after Kim Il-song.

Many streets, organs and organisations in some 100 countries of five continents were named after Kim Il-song, praising his immortal feats and reflecting the aspirations of the progressive humankind. Their number increases.

The government of Mozambique decided to call the University Street in the centre of Maputo "Kim Il-song Street" and a Guinean scientific institute conducive to agricultural development changed its name into "Kim Il-song Institute of Agricultural Science" on the initiative of the former president. There are "Kim Il-song Libraries" in Tanzania, Lebanon and Somalia, "Kim Il-song Bookstores" in Madagascar and Nigeria, "Kim Il-song Classes" at three schools in Peru, "Kim Il-song Kindergarten" in Mongolia and "Kim Il-song House" in Benin.

With the growing desire to study the revolutionary idea of President Kim Il-song "Publishing and Printing Houses of Comrade Kim Il-song Works" and "Editorial Board of President Kim Il-song Works" were founded in Pakistan, France, Syria, Italy and many other countries.

"Committee for the Study of Kimilsongism", "Society for the Study of President Kim Il-song Works", "Centre for the Theory and Practice of Kimilsongism" and other study groups naming after President Kim Il-song were formed in Egypt, Switzerland, Peru, Mali, Guyana and scores of other countries.

A botanist of Indonesia bred a rare beautiful flower of a new kind and had the honour of naming it "Kimilsongia". "Kimilsongia" is in full bloom in more than 50 countries including Pakistan, the United States, Angola and Bulgaria.

Over 450 streets, organs and organisations of the world were named after President Kim Il-song.

Special Adviser to Ugandan President Meets Yi

*SK2411043594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424
GMT 24 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA)—David Kaseera Kibirango, special advisor to the president of Uganda, met Yi In-mo, who is known as the incarnation of faith and will, here on Wednesday.

Referring to the happy life he is enjoying after recovering his health thanks to the love and solicitude shown by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, Yi In-mo said that the road of socialism indicated by the chuche idea is the road of providing the people with true happiness.

The special advisor said with high appreciation that it was an expression of Yi In-mo's intense loyalty to the party and the leader that he had kept the principles of a revolutionary, not yielding to any torture and persecution by the enemy, so as to come back home at last.

His unbounded fidelity to the party and the leader, indomitable will and ardent patriotism give a great inspiration to the Ugandan people, Kibirango said.

Meets With WPK Secretary

*SK2511105894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032
GMT 25 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA)—Choe Tae-pok, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], today met David Kaseera Kibirango, special advisor to the president of Uganda, on a visit to Korea.

Noting that the Korean people are advancing invariably along the road of socialism chosen by themselves, the special advisor said that he came to know well how excellent the policies of the WPK are.

He said that the world revolutionary people are looking up to Korea as the fortress of socialism and achievements made by Korea in political, economic, cultural and other fields are results of the great leader President Kim Il-song's wise guidance.

Kim Chong-il Receives Gift From Ugandan Leader

*SK2411103594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026
GMT 24 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA)—The dear leader of our party and people Comrade Kim Chong-il was presented with a gift by the special advisor to the president of Uganda on a visit to Korea.

The gift was handed to an official concerned by Special Advisor David Kaseera Kibirango.

Benin Party Leader on Kim Chong-il Chairmanship*SK2411102294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018
GMT 24 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA)—Ali Houdou [spelling of name as received], secretary general of the Central Committee of the Party of Revolution of Benin, said that the election of his excellency Kim Chong-il, a great thinker and theoretician and outstanding leader, as the honorary chairman of the Party of Revolution of Benin gives them a great honour and joy, when he met the Korean ambassador to his country on November 18.

He said the members of the Party of Revolution of Benin have deep respect and reverence for him.

My party elected his excellency dear Kim Chong-il as its honorary chairman because he leads the Korean and the world revolution with his outstanding thought and theory and commanding art and because my party is struggling for the common purpose with the Workers' Party of Korea, Ali Houdou noted.

He expressed the belief that the Workers' Party of Korea led by his excellency dear Kim Chong-il will achieve success in socialist construction and realise without fail the country's independent and peaceful reunification as intended by the great President Kim Il-song.

Kim Chong-il's Work Disseminated Abroad*SK2411042594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0420
GMT 24 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's famous work "Socialism Is a Science" was carried by the Egyptian paper AL TAAWON, the Romanian papers LIBER TATEA, NATIUNEA and EUROPA and the Ugandan paper PEOPLE.

Meanwhile, the work was disseminated and studied in different countries.

Lectures were given by the Harare Provincial Committee of the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front on November 11 and by the Monima Socialist Party, the United Party of Struggle, the Socialist Progressive Party and other political parties of Madagascar in joint name in Antananarivo on November 8.

Lecturers elaborated on the main content of the work and laid stress on its theoretical and practical significance.

They said:

Comrade Kim Chong-il in his work gives a scientific exposition of socialism, so that the progressive people of the world may have a firm conviction of socialism.

Although the imperialists are now fussing about the "end of socialism", the struggle of the progressive people of the world for independence will win victory as long as Comrade Kim Chong-il, the outstanding thinker and theoretician and the great master of leadership, is standing in the van of revolution.

Seminars on the work were held by the Togolese People's Rally Youth and in Stockholm, Sweden.

Foreigners Commend Kim Chong-il's 'Famous Work'*SK2511045294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418
GMT 25 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's famous work "Socialism Is a Science" is evoking a deep sympathy among public figures of different countries.

Kubtsov, first vice-chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, when he met the Korean ambassador to Russia, laid stress on the significance of the work, saying:

Few politicians are now writing about the theory of socialism. It is, therefore, of internationally weighty significance and instills the firm conviction of socialism into the people that Comrade Kim Chong-il, the political leader of high repute and head of state of the country which is successfully building socialism, published the treatise on socialism.

It will also greatly help our party in its work.

I extend heartfelt thanks to Comrade Kim Chong-il in the name of the Standing Committee of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation.

Baguma Isoke, member of the Ugandan National Resistance Council and chairman of the Ugandan National Committee for the Study of the Chuche Idea; Chadni Chauk, member of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Socialist Party of India; and Salvador Miguel Fond, an educational official of Mozambique, issued statements to the press in support of this work.

They hailed the work, saying it is an important work which instilled the conviction of the victory of socialism into those people suffering from the bankruptcy of socialism and the people of developing countries who aspire after socialism and actively encouraged their struggle.

Comrade Kim Chong-il in his work gives a scientific exposition of the justness of the idea of socialism and its permanent vitality, they said, and stressed: The work is a famous one that instills firm conviction of the victory of socialism into the progressive humankind of the world and a historic one of weighty significance in strengthening and developing the socialist movement of the world.

The Guyanese National Committee for the Study of the Chuche Idea of Comrade Kim Il-song made public a statement supporting the work.

The statement emphasized that the idea and theory of His Excellency Kim Chong-il's work "Socialism Is a Science" constitute an important guideline which brightly indicates the road of the struggle of the progressive parties and people to defend and advance the cause of socialism at present.

Dialogue on 'Revolutionary View' of Leader

SK2411062494 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0930 GMT 23 Nov 94

["Dialogue" between Dr. Kim Chong-kon, associate professor and director of an office at Kim Il-song University, and station reporter Cho Hyon-su on the "Ray of Chuche" program: "The Nature and Originality of a Revolutionary View of the Leader [suryong]"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Cho Hyon-su] How are you?

[Kim Chong-kon] How are you?

[Cho] The great leader [yongdoja] of our party and people Comrade Kim Chong-il, a sublime thinker and theorist, has put forth an original ideology about a revolutionary view of the leader [suryong], thereby setting a noble example about loyalty to the respected and beloved leader [suryongnim].

[Kim] Yes, that is right.

[Cho] Then, how about discussing the nature and originality of a revolutionary view of the leader as elucidated by the dear comrade leader?

[Kim] Yes, let us discuss it. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has pointed out: A revolutionary view of the leader is the most correct view and standpoint toward the status and role of the leader [suryong] in the working class revolutionary struggle, and it is the position and attitude of upholding the leader [suryong] in a wholehearted way.

A revolutionary view of the leader is formed when a unitary system is established as a result of acquiring an ideological and theoretical realization by correctly reviewing the status of the leader [suryong] in the revolution and construction, and by reviewing his leadership over the revolution and construction, and by obtaining a steadfast character of wholeheartedly upholding the leader [suryong] without any selfishness in practical activities.

We can roughly categorize into two parts the ideology about the nature of a revolutionary view of the leader elucidated by the dear comrade leader. First, a view and standpoint about the status and role of the leader [suryong] in the revolutionary struggle.

[Cho] You are right. That is about an ideological and theoretical foundation of establishing a view of the

leader, that is how and in what way one should regard and uphold [majihanunga] the leader [suryong], is it not?

[Kim] Yes, that is right. Above all, the leader [suryong] holds an absolute status that cannot be compared to anyone else in the revolutionary struggle. So-called extraordinary individuals have existed throughout history, but they have remained only individuals, they cannot be compared to the leader [suryong].

First, the leader [suryong] constitutes the center of a social, political group and the supreme form of brain. The socialist society in which the popular masses are the masters constitutes a social, political body. As the brain rules all parts of a body, the leader stands in the position of the supreme form of brain in a social, political body.

The leader constitutes the center of unity and cohesion, and of leadership in a society. The socialist society led by the leader is in perfect harmony with the leader as its center; and the leadership of society is realized also with the leader as its center.

Next, the leader plays a decisive role in the revolutionary struggle. The leader plays a role in creating a leading ideology of the revolution and putting forth the revolutionary ideology, strategies, and tactics by reflecting the lawfulness of the developing history and the demands of the times; and in arming, and arousing, the popular masses with such ideologies, strategies, and tactics, thereby actively organizing and mobilizing them into the revolutionary struggle.

No one can take the leader's place to play such a role.

[Cho] Yes, you are right. I think another point in the ideology about the nature of a revolutionary view of the leader is connected with the position and attitude of wholeheartedly upholding the leader.

[Kim] Yes, that is right. To have the position and attitude of upholding the leader, it is important to have endless loyalty and filial piety toward the leader. In this way, while maintaining loyalty as a revolutionary conviction and a moral obligation, loyalty can be devoted to the leader to the end without backsliding [pyonsim], no matter what kind of winds may blow.

Like this, a revolutionary view of the leader forms a unitary system by the view and standpoint of the leader's status and role, and by the position and attitude of wholeheartedly upholding the leader.

[Cho] By the way, where does the originality of a revolutionary view of the leader elucidated by the dear comrade leader come from? Would you talk about this, please?

[Kim] Yes, let us discuss it. First, the originality lies in the fact that the ideology of the chuche-oriented view of the leader has raised anew the ideology about the unitary leadership of the leader on the basis of the elucidation of the status and role of the leader as the supreme form of the brain of a social, political body.

The previous theory based upon the [word indistinct] conception of history failed to view the social group as a social, political body, but viewed it as a group of people connected by economics. Therefore, such a theory could not see the status and role of the leader as the brain of a social, political body, but regarded the leader as a collective body [hyopuiche] leading (?a small number of people).

Elucidating the inseparable relations between the leader and the masses, the previous (?ideologists) perceived the leader as a group of people, while categorizing the masses into classes; the classes being ruled by a political party; and the party, on the whole, connecting with a somewhat stationary group called the leader [suryong].

Thus, they failed to put forth the question of the unitary leadership of the leader in the revolution and construction, but put forth the ideology about collective leadership [chipchejok yongdo].

Unlike this, the chuche idea has regarded society as a political body, thus elucidating that like a body having a brain, society is led by an ideological will.

The ideology about the chuche-based revolutionary view of the leader makes it possible to help firmly accomplish the leader's unitary leadership over the revolution and construction. Just herein lies one of the intrinsic differences from the view of the previous (?ideologists) regarding the leader.

[Cho] The originality about the ideology of the nature of a revolutionary view of the leader elucidated by the dear comrade leader also lies in the fact that this ideology scientifically elucidates the leader's (?natural gift), and his matchless great traits and qualifications, thereby bringing up anew a theory about a view of loyalty based upon the absolute loyalty to the leader. What is your opinion?

[Kim] You are right. The previous theories said that only if an historical inevitability is created on the basis of an objective condition, a leader will necessarily emerge, thereby failing to put forth a theory about the absolute authority of the leader that is different from [word indistinct].

The previous (?ideologists) said: Only if an historical inevitability is created, will a leader necessarily emerge. As the question of who will become a leader is an accidental one, anyone can take the place of the role of the leader. This will exercise an inevitable effect on history.

This kind of opinion is theoretically wrong, and is practically very extremely harmful.

[Cho] Yes. By the way, the ideology about the nature of a revolutionary view of the leader elucidates that the leader is not any individual, but one who possesses extraordinary traits and qualifications, which just any

individual cannot have; and because of this, he holds an absolute status and plays a decisive role in the revolutionary struggle.

[Kim] You are right. Today, the world's people are consistently envious of our people, calling our people the people blessed with the leader. This is because our people are upholding the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song, the great man among the great men and the senior of the world's politics, and the dear comrade leader who possesses the brilliant wisdom and outstanding leadership capabilities. The fact that only our people have the blessing of having the leader, which others cannot possess, corroborates the fact that apart from the question concerning a leader's extraordinary traits and qualifications, a leader will never emerge naturally [susuro].

Because the absolute status and the decisive role of the leader are guaranteed in the revolutionary struggle due to the leader's outstanding traits and qualifications, there will arise the revolutionary demand that one render his devoted loyalty to the leader.

Today, our people's pure, clean sense of loyalty is a noble sentiment based on their revolutionary conviction of trying to uphold the great leader and the dear comrade leader. This is an absolute one emanating from their sense of admiration of the leader [suryongnim] and the comrade leader and from the charm of the leader and the comrade leader, which is based upon their outstanding traits and qualifications.

Like this, the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and people Comrade Kim Chong-il has put forth the original ideology about a revolutionary view of the leader, thereby providing a powerful ideological, theoretical guideline with which to firmly achieve single-hearted unity between the leader [suryong] and the masses and to vigorously advance the revolution and construction under the unitary leadership of the leader [suryong].

[Cho] Shall we close our talk here?

[Kim] Yes.

Kim Chong-il Sends Birthday Table to Woman

SK2411100694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002
GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA)—Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader of our party and people, sent a hundredth birthday table to Pak Chong-sun, an old woman living in Kwail County, South Hwanghae Province.

The birthday table was conveyed to her on November 23.

Born into a poor peasant's family in Chunghwa County, Pyongyang in November 1894, the old woman had lived

in the maltreatment and persecution of the exploiter class until she began enjoying a true life after the country was liberated in 1945.

Receiving the birthday table she said, "I can greet my centenary birthday because I have enjoyed a free medical care, living without worries about food, clothing and housing and about education of my children under the correct popular policy of the Workers' Party of Korea."

The solicitude of Comrade Kim Chong-il, who sent the birthday table to an ordinary old woman, congratulating her on her longevity reflects his noble virtue feeling a joy in the happiness of the people.

County Role in Improving Living Standards Noted

*SK2411103394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025
GMT 24 Nov 94*

[**"NODONG SINMUN Stresses Need To Enhance Role of County"**—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA)—Enhancing the role of the county is an important requisite for improving the people's living standard, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, basing himself on the scientific insight into the specific conditions of the socialist construction in the country and into the people's increased needs in living, put forward the programmatic task of enhancing the role of the county for a turn in the people's living standard.

His policy of improving the people's living standard by enhancing the role of the county is the most reasonable and scientific policy to meet the realistic requirement of socialist construction in our country, the paper declares, and says:

The correctness of this policy of the party is related to the county's position and role in building socialism and increasing the people's living standard. The county, which occupies a certain area of the country, serves as the regional base and unit in socialist construction.

As the regional base in the socialist construction of our country, the county occupies, above all, an important place in increasing agricultural production.

In our country, the county is the regional base for building the socialist countryside and the main objects of its work are rural areas. Today each county of our country has all necessary conditions for correctly directing the agricultural production.

The county also plays an important role in developing the local industry which takes much proportion of consumer goods production.

In our country each county has many factories including those for foodstuffs, daily necessities and building materials, which are greatly conducive to the improvement of the people's living.

The county of our country is a unit which is responsible for directly guiding the local industry and agriculture and, at the same time, a base for linking the towns with the countryside in commerce. A goods supply system has been set up in the county and service facilities for the inhabitants there have been well furnished.

Indeed, the county in Korea occupies an important place in the improvement of the people's living standard. The validity of the party's policy, the policy of effecting a turn in the people's living standard by enhancing the role of the county, lies in the fact that it reflects such specific realities most correctly.

Increase in Coal Production Reported

*SK2411102594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015
GMT 24 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA)—Output is increasing at coal mines under the Ministry of the Coal Industry in Korea.

The Anju Area Coal Complex produced 13,000 more tons of coal in recent days than in the same period of last month by actively introducing reasonable cutting and conveying methods.

In this period the Kangso Area United Coal Mines produced several thousand more tons of coal and excavated hundreds of metres besides its plan in capital tunnelling.

The Tokchon Area Coal Complex boosted the coal output 10 percent in recent 20 odd days above the same period of last year.

Sunchon, Pukchang and Kaechon Area Coal Complexes are these days producing large quantities of coal outside the daily plan.

Increase in Output of Rolled Steel Reported

*SK2311151094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1501
GMT 23 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 23 (KCNA)—The output of rolled steel is on the increase in Korea.

According to data available at the Ministry of Metal Industry, the output of rolled steel in the last 10 days is 9 percent higher than in the same period of the previous month.

In this period, the Chollima Steel Complex topped the rolled steel output plan 20 percent.

The Songjin Steel Complex is now increasing its daily output of rolled steel by more than 30 percent as against the like period of the previous month by extensively introducing advanced work methods.

Dispatches about increased production of rolled steel have also come from the Kim Chaek and Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complexes.

Book on 'Heroine of Mt. Paektu' Previewed

SK2511105694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA)—The book "Collection of Legends of Heroine of Mt. Paektu" (1) was recently published at the literature and art press group of Korea.

Contained in the book are stories told among the people revering Comrade Kim Chong-suk, an indomitable communist revolutionary fighter boundlessly faithful to the great leader President Kim Il-sung and a heroine of the anti-Japanese struggle, as a heroine of Mt. Paektu.

The book edits 39 legends belonging to the period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, the post-liberation days and the present.

Such legends as "Lifeguard of the Great General of Mt. Paektu," "Azalea Handkerchief" and "Lifeguard Descending From Heaven Riding a Horse" show the boundless loyalty of Comrade Kim Chong-suk who safeguarded the great leader at countless moments of danger.

"Flying Bullets," "Thunder Gun" and "Three Youths Meeting a Crack Shot" highly praise her extraordinary marksmanship and her magic with a gun.

Edited in the book are "Story About Oats" and "Soundless Mill" and "Automatic Cooking Pot" showing the fine cooking skills and warm love of Comrade Kim Chong-suk.

The legends "Girl and Tiger," "Peach Rock" and "Ox From the Sky," are about the noble traits of Comrade Kim Chong-suk who deeply treasures and loves the people.

Production of Various Television Dramas Reported

SK2411150994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1504 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA)—Many serial T.V. dramas of different themes have been created by the General Bureau of Broadcasting Literature and Arts under the DPRK Radio and Television Broadcasting Committee.

Such dramas as "Song of Youth", "Dear Mountain Village" and "Women in Native Town" will shortly be screened amid public attention.

The serial T.V. drama "Song of Youth" (nine parts) was adapted from a lengthy novel of writer Nam Tae-hyon.

The work is based on the devotion of a young scientist to introducing chuche-oriented new fuel into steel production.

Through the portrayal of the hero, the drama truly represents the revolutionary faith and desire of the present-day young people to carry through the party's intention and the noble ethical outlook of young men and women.

The three-part serial T.V. drama "Dear Mountain Village" tells about the noble mental world of a doctor at a people's hospital who helps build the native village into a socialist rural village good to live in hearty response to the teachings of the great leader President Kim Il-sung.

The general bureau that creates works on the basis of famous novels produced many novel dramas including "Maxim", "People Dealing With Fire" and "My Name Is Youth" this year.

The works stimulated great interests among the TV audience for their high ideological and artistic value and for their deep description of different personalities of characters.

The creators and artistes are now speeding at the final stage the creation of multi-part serial T.V. dramas of various themes including "Mt. Paekum" representing the members of the hero excavator workteam in Yongyang, "Mind of a Doctress" on national reunification, the cherished desire of the nation, "Our Customs" showing the noble trait of traditional Army-people unity and "I'll Be Unchangeable" on the life story of a public security officer.

South Korea

South, U.S., Japan Comment on Reactor Choice

SK2511024494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0234 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 25 (YONHAP)—South Korea, Japan and the United States have reaffirmed that they, and not North Korea, will select the main contractor for the North's reactor project, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said Friday.

The three countries, set to form the core of the Korea Energy Development Organization (KEDO) in charge of the reactor plan, agreed that personnel involved in the project including the head contractor should have free access to the reactor construction site, he said. This suggests a massive presence by South Koreans who are to provide the majority of financing and construction work.

Seoul, Tokyo and Washington met last week to discuss arrangement of KEDO and details of the 4-billion-dollar reactor project.

"We agreed that South Korea's Ulchin reactors Nos. 3 and 4 should be specified as the model of reference," Han said in a report to the National Assembly.

Officials said this position will be delivered at North Korea- U.S. experts' meetings opening in Beijing on Nov. 30.

The three countries agreed that the United States will sign the reactor contract as KEDO representative, but that this contract will only involve the overall framework.

"The exact terms will be included in the commercial contracts to be signed later between KEDO and the head contractor," the foreign minister said.

The Beijing meeting opens before KEDO's actual formation, so the talks will stick to general discussions, going over the big differences in their positions on reactor construction.

"South Korea, the United States and Japan still see many uncertainties in pursuing the project when considering the past attitude of North Korea and the reality of its system," said Han. "The three countries agreed to strengthen their persuasive efforts toward North Korea through close consultations."

North 'Concentration Camps' Conditions Described

SK2411085494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0800 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 24 (YONHAP)—North Korean concentration camps openly execute escapees and pregnant inmates, while prisoners routinely die of disease due to malnutrition and extremely poor living conditions, a defector charged Thursday [24 November].

The claim was made by An Myong-chol, 25, who defected to the South last month after serving as a guard at a concentration camp for political prisoners in Hoeryong, North Hamgyong Province, controlled by the North's National Security Agency.

An told a new conference held at the Press Center in downtown Seoul Thursday, "Political prisoners in North Korean concentration camps lead beast-like lives. Prisoners who have attempted to escape or masterminded disturbances are executed by firing squads while many look on.

"Political prisoners are not permitted to marry in the North under a policy of exterminating them. Female inmates found to be pregnant are executed openly once or twice a year in concentration camp yards with all inmates looking on."

Describing the Hoeryong Camp where he served as a guard, he said that it has a circumference of about 70 ri (28 kilometers) encompassing several villages of Hoeryong city. "Over 50,000 political prisoners and their families who are accommodated in the camp, due to poor and insufficient food, are reduced to skin and bone," he said.

The camp is surrounded by a 2.5-meter-deep and 2-meter-wide moat bristling with bamboo spears and nails. Electric current flows through the barbed wire and guards maintain surveillance 24 hours a day, making it extremely difficult for inmates to escape.

Due to a lack of communications with the outside, An said, the inmates were ignorant of the July death of North Korean President Kim Il-song.

As to the motive for his defection, An had this to say: "My father committed suicide last January, having been found guilty of stealing grain from the Hongwon grain office where he was working. This was followed by my mother's detention by the security authorities. My family was thus ruined because of food. Consequently, I was also assigned to tough posts in the military. Finding it difficult to live in the North without a ray of hope, I decided to come to the South."

After An fled, North Korean authorities launched a massive search for him in Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture across the Tuman River border.

A YONHAP news agency team, while touring Yanbian Prefecture in October, found a wanted poster for An Myong-chol tacked on the wall of a small store in a village one hour and 40 minutes' drive from Yanji city toward Hunchun.

Together with An's photo and personal details, the poster warned that he was carrying four pistols, one automatic rifle and over 150 bullets.

The YONHAP team was touring northeastern China to prepare features marking the 50th anniversary next year of Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule.

Former POW Cho Promoted to First Lieutenant

SK2511093894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0813 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 25 (YONHAP)—It took 2nd Lt. Cho Chang-ho 43 long, trying years to gain promotion to the rank of first lieutenant and resurrection.

He was commissioned as a second lieutenant of the Army artillery in 1951 during the Korean war and captured as a prisoner of war (POW) while serving as an artillery observation officer at a front-line outpost he was assigned to upon being commissioned. The Army, however, listed him as killed in action.

In North Korea, he was sent first to a POW camp and then forced to serve in the North Korean People's Army. After being discharged from the Army, he labored in various mines which were virtually North Korean gulags.

Last month, he pulled off a risky escape from the North and miraculously made it to Seoul, his hometown.

On Friday Cho, clad in full Army uniform, reported his promotion to Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae.

Earlier in the day, he visited the National Cemetery and laid flowers before the monument to fallen heroes and removed his name from the tablet of fallen heroes—gaining sweet and formal resurrection.

Just before noon, he received the Order of National Security Merit Tong-il medal from President Kim Yong-sam in a ceremony at Chongwadae [presidential offices]. The decoration is the highest honor given to soldiers and sailors, and only three—the chief of naval operations, the Air Force chief of Staff and the second Army commander—have been awarded the decoration this year.

After the ceremony, President Kim hosted lunch for Lt. Cho, his family and his comrades-in-arms.

President Kim joked, "You must be the longest-serving second lieutenant in the world as you needed 43 years to get promoted to first lieutenant."

The commander-in-chief added, "Your promotion does not signify a mere difference between the two Army ranks but demonstrates how the value of your hard-won freedom is so precious."

Asked how he felt while removing his name from the tablet of fallen soldiers at the National Cemetery, Lt. Cho replied: "I could not help thinking of my fellow soldiers who have not returned from the war, Sir."

When the president inquired about his health, he said, "I've improved greatly and have gained four kilograms, Sir. With a little more treatment, I think I'll recover fully, except for my left eye which lost sight while I was working in a North Korean coal mine, Sir."

On Saturday morning, Lt. Cho will formally retire from the Army in a ceremony on the parade grounds of the Korean Military Academy, with Defense Minister Yi and cadets of the three services' academies attending.

Upon retirement, he will receive 91.3 million won in pay which he could not collect over the past 43 years and 18 million won in retirement allowances in a lump sum, the Defense Ministry said.

In addition, he will receive 692,000 in monthly pension until his death or 53.4 million won in a lump-sum pension.

Measures Formed for N-S Economic Cooperation

SK2411091194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0900 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 24 (YONHAP)—The government announced Thursday [24 November] a set of follow-up measures designed to boost inter-Korean economic cooperation, including issuing visit permits with validity of one and a half years for those who travel frequently to North Korea on business.

Business people would be able to visit North Korea anytime during the permitted period only after reporting to the authorities concerned.

The government also decided to permit local companies, banks and economic organizations to establish representative offices in the North for three years without placing any limitations on location and number of personnel.

The measures were decided at a meeting of the Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Promotion Council presided over by Deputy Prime Minister and National Unification Minister Yi Hong-ku.

Economic bodies allowed to open northern offices include the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Federation of Korean Industries and the Korea Federation of Small Businesses.

The follow-up steps were classified into three categories—regulations for handling projects for inter-Korean economic cooperation, guidelines for establishing offices in North Korea by firms and economic organizations, and an amendment to the notice regarding approval for shipping goods in inter-Korean trade.

The new government measures will further simplify procedures for businessmen's visits to North Korea, a government official explained.

Under the new measures, production facilities worth less than 1 million U.S. dollars can be shipped out of the country with the approval of the president of any bank authorized to deal in foreign exchange.

But facilities worth more than 1 million dollars being shipped out of the country require permission from the national unification minister.

Business subject to inter-Korean economic cooperation was also classified to include joint venture and joint contractual venture, single-handed investment, joint investment with third countries and employment of North Koreans.

In addition, the government shortened to 30 days from 50 days the settlement period for approval of cooperative project applications.

When applying for a project, the applicant should also submit a letter of intent exchanged with North Korea and a confirmation letter from North Korean authorities.

After the meeting, NUB [National Unification Board] Spokesman Kim Kyong-ung said the government will continue to simplify procedures for effective promotion of inter-Korean economic cooperation.

He added, however, that economic policy toward North Korea will be carried out prudently and calmly in consideration of various uncertainties.

North Reportedly Drafts Foreign Investment Law

SK2411122094 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0800 GMT 24 Nov 94

[YONHAP report from Beijing]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a Western source in Beijing, North Korea recently prepared a foreign investment protection law to actively induce foreign investment. The law reportedly guarantees government compensation in case foreign companies that invest in North Korea go bankrupt.

The source, which is participating in the development of Mt. Kumgang and a bottled water business in North Korea, and which has frequent contacts with North Korean economic and trade organizations in Beijing, stated the North Korean Administration Council recently took such a measure under special instructions by Kim Chong-il; the law will be formally announced in early 1995 following ratification by the Supreme People's Assembly scheduled for December 1994.

According to the source, the foreign investment protection law prepared by the North Korean Administration Council stipulates the North Korean authorities will guarantee investments made by foreign companies and will provide commercial loans through an international consortium of foreign banks or multinational companies.

'Special Instructions' From Kim

SK2411122994 Seoul YONHAP in English 1221 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, Nov. 24 (YONHAP)—North Korea has recently worked out a draft foreigners investment protection law as a means of positively inducing foreign investment in North Korea, a Western business source here said Thursday [24 November].

The draft law, set to be enacted early next year, provides for state-level compensation for any foreign industries that go bankrupt in North Korea, the source said.

The source who often meets North Korean economic and trade officials said Pyongyang's Administration Council has recently mapped out the draft law on special instructions from Kim Chong-il.

It is subject to approval by the Supreme People's Assembly set to meet next month.

The draft law also stipulates a set of favors for foreign investors in view of North Korea's low credit standing and calls for the introduction of foreign commercial loans through international consortiums, the source said.

Trade Rules To Include 'Streamlined' Approval

SK2411031594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0305 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 24 (YONHAP)—The government is poised to announce new guidelines

for boosting inter-Korean economic cooperation in the wake of a high-level meeting to be presided over by Deputy Premier and National Unification Minister Yi Hong-ku Thursday afternoon.

Under the guidelines, to be marked by streamlined government approval for cooperation projects but guarded implementation of such projects, business people traveling to the North will be issued a visit permit valid for one and a half years. At present, this permit is valid only one time, requiring people to apply for one permit for each visit.

Firms opening an office in the North may assign up to five employees to the office, a move seen by the business community here as a big stride toward increasing inter-Korean economic relations in view of the current political row with Pyongyang.

The one-and-a-half-year permit, sort of a multiple-entry visa, is expected to eliminate much of the red tape for businessmen planning to visit the North.

The government, in cooperation with the Korea Trade Promotion Corp., will hold briefing sessions on the guidelines for business people in major cities across the country starting next Tuesday.

Then in mid-December, the government will issue visit permits to businessmen from five to six companies, including Hyundai, Samsung and Daewoo, which hold North Korean invitations that are deemed still effective.

Consequently, business people's travel to the North, which has been suspended since October 1992, will resume.

The government will issue visit permits to those who have received an invitation from North Korea's Administration Council (cabinet) and Workers' (Communist) Party agencies such as the External Economic Cooperation Committee, the External Economic Cooperation Promotion Committee and the Koryo People's Industrial Development Council.

But it will apply strict rules to companies planning to invest in the North until agreement is reached with Pyongyang on open settlement of accounts, double-taxation avoidance and an investment-return guarantee.

Decrease in Imports of North's Herbs Reported

SK2411040694 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 24 Nov 94 p 17

[FBIS Translated Text] The introduction of North Korean herbs for Oriental medicine has decreased significantly since last year.

According to information released by the Health and Social Affairs Ministry on 23 November, the introduction of North Korean herbs has decreased significantly since the end of 1992. The introduction of North Korean

herbs had increased continuously from 1989 to 1992, when \$4.56 million worth of North Korean herbs was introduced to South Korea.

A total of 1,689 tonnes of North Korean herbs worth \$4.56 million was introduced in 1992.

However, 744 tonnes worth \$2.01 million was introduced in 1993, a 56 percent decrease; and, 401 tonnes worth \$530,000 was introduced as of July this year.

If this tendency continues, herbs worth \$910,000 will be introduced by the end of this year, a 55 percent decrease.

South Korea introduced 76 tonnes of herbs worth \$390,000 in 1989; 206 tonnes worth \$680,000 in 1990; 621 tonnes worth \$2.58 million in 1991; and \$4.56 million worth in 1992.

A large amount of North Korean herbs was introduced when the government allowed indirect North-South trade through third countries and barter trade. However, when the government began to ban such trade on a gradual basis, the introduction of North Korean herbs started to decrease significantly.

Ministry: Oct N-S Commodity Exchanges Decline

SK2411103794 Seoul YONHAP in English 1025 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 24 (YONHAP)—Commodity exchanges between South and North Korea declined last month, the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry reported Thursday [24 November].

The report said commodity exchanges in last October totaled 16.04 million dollars on an approval basis, an amount representing a decline of 8.4 percent from the same month of last year.

The October volume brings to 168.35 million dollars the total inter-Korean commodity exchanges in the first ten months of this year, down 2.6 percent from a year before.

Commodities introduced from North Korea in October amounted to 13.54 million dollars, a decrease of 13.2 percent from last year's October.

A ministry official said the decrease was due mainly to a 48.6 percent decline in the gold ingots brought in from a year before.

Shipment to North Korea reached 2.51 million dollars, up 31.5 percent over the same month of 1993. The major items taken to the North included natural rubber and sugar, he said.

Meanwhile, South-North commodity dealings in the form of processing on commission totaled 24.4 million dollars in the January-October period of this year, a staggering 386.2 percent increase over a year before.

Garment Firm Promotes Business Link With DPRK

SK2211004794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0011 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 22 (YONHAP)—Jindo Fashion Co. is promoting North Korea visits by its President Kim Yong-to and five executives and staff members to forge an inter-Korean business link, including the establishment of a joint-venture factory.

The prominent fur and leather garment maker revealed Tuesday that toward this end, it has applied for official permission to visit the North and contacted North Korean authorities through its Beijing office.

If the visits come off, Jindo fashion plans to negotiate with North Korean authorities first on processing of leather garments on a commission basis and later on creation of a joint-venture factory.

The company considers such projects more attractive than those in third countries like China in that North Koreans are thought to be skillful in needle work, and because transportation costs would be lower in case raw materials and finished products were carried by land across the border.

Jindo fashion, whose sales this year is expected to top 75 billion won (about 93.75 million U.S. dollars), currently runs a joint-venture plant in China and plans to open another in Vietnam next year.

Stockbreeders Protest U.S. 'Pressure' on Market

SK2511100094 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0904 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Heads of stockbreeders cooperatives throughout the country delivered a letter to U.S. Ambassador to the ROK James Laney today, demanding that the U.S. Government withdraw its decision to investigate the ROK meat market according to the U.S. trade provision Super 301.

In the letter, 190 representatives of the nation's stockbreeders cooperatives noted that ROK stockbreeders are faced with a serious situation in which they will have to give up their businesses, following the conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations. They said that, if the United States continues to put pressure on the ROK to open its market, 1 million ROK livestock farmers would carry out the movement to boycott not only beef but all imported U.S. goods, in alliance with consumers.

Five stockbreeders cooperative heads—including Hong Chae-pu, head of the Yongin stockbreeders cooperative—visited the U.S. Embassy in Seoul to meet with Ambassador Laney today, but they could not do so. They met and spoke with Agricultural Counselor John Child, instead, and delivered the letter of protest.

Dailies Criticize U.S. Trade Policy Decision

SK2511072994

[FBIS Editorial Report] Local vernacular dailies on 25 November carry editorials criticizing the United States in connection with the recent decision of the U.S. Trade Representative [USTR] to conduct an investigation into the ROK meat import market, which could lead to the application of the U.S. Super 301 trade law.

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN carries on page 3, an 800-word editorial entitled, "'Rotten Meat' and the Warning Phrase on Cigarette Pack." The editorial notes the absurdity of the demands of the U.S. meat industry, namely the prolonging of the distribution period for meats, such as sausages, for a much longer term than set by the ROK Government, the shortening of the quarantine period for imported meat, and an increase in the types of meat sold. The editorial says, "Their demand that we prolong the term of distribution means that we should eat 'rotten meat.'" The editorial then notes the U.S. reluctance to discuss the ROK-U.S. 'memorandum on cigarettes,' and notes that the "memorandum contains seriously unfair clauses which make printing of a warning phrase on the health hazards linked to cigarettes on both sides of the cigarette pack, impossible." The editorial then says, "The issue of meat importation and the amendment to the 'memorandum on cigarettes' cannot be resolved in unilateral U.S. demands or with its high-handed attitude." The editorial then states, "The U.S. Government should first think about its own meat distribution system and what regulatory measures it imposes on cigarette sales in the United States. The U.S. Government should not impose on the ROK what it does not apply or bans in the United States."

The conservative CHOSON ILBO carries on page 3, an 800-word editorial entitled, "U.S. Fault-Finding With Our Meat Market." The editorial notes, "We think the investigation is absurd because the issue concerns our local regulations for food sanitation which have nothing to do with either unfair trade practices, discriminatory treatment, trade barriers, or even the U.S. Super 301 trade law. The decisions a country makes on distribution periods or methods, consumption, or storage of various types of foodstuff for the public health and safety of its people, depends entirely upon the characteristics and standards of the local distribution industry." The editorial then criticizes the U.S. Government for accepting the U.S. meat industry's appeal for investigation, in spite of its realization that the ROK Government's actions to rectify the faulty classification of imported meats from the United States were beyond reproach.

The pro-government SEOUL SINMUN carries on page 3, an 800-word editorial entitled, "Is the U.S. Super 301 Trade Law Omnipotent?" The editorial begins, "It is very regrettable that the United States has decided to investigate into the ROK meat market. Not much time has elapsed since our government extended the distribution period for imported U.S. sausage to 90 days by

going so far as to revise the Food Sanitation Law and Food Regulations, but the United States is now going to investigate into the ROK meat importation system and look into applying the Super 301 clause." The editorial notes that the ROK has the right to set a timeframe for the distribution of meats according to its own conditions of food sanitation and food regulations. The editorial then expresses regret at the United States' attempt to lengthen the term for meat distribution at the expense of endangering the health of Koreans, and concludes, "It is improper for the United States to drive an issue of food sanitation into a trade issue. This is especially so, in light of the fact that the ROK is a major U.S. customer which imports 71 percent of its imported farm and livestock produce from the United States."

'High-Handed U.S. Attitude' in Trade Criticized

SK2411093694 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 24 Nov 94 p 3

[Editorial: "High-Handed U.S. Attitude in Trade With the ROK]

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been little friction reported between the ROK and the United States for some time, but that friction is becoming intense again in the areas of sausage and cigarettes. The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) accepted the petition submitted by the U.S. meat industry, and decided to investigate whether there are unfair practices in the ROK meat market. Meanwhile, our Ministry of Finance has recently requested the U.S. Government readjust the memorandum of understanding on cigarette trade that was exchanged between the ROK and the United States. Our government has officially expressed its regret to the U.S. Government over the latter's decision to investigate our local meat market while avoiding discussion of the amendment to the cigarette memorandum of understanding.

The "sausage war" between the ROK and the United States began when the ROK reclassified the sausage imported from the United States as heated-refrigerated sausage. The change was made to rectify the wrong classification of unheated-refrigerated sausage under which U.S. sausage was imported. Therefore, the United States had to admit the feasibility of the reclassification, although it placed the United States at a disadvantage in shorter distribution terms. The problem is that following the reclassification, the United States demanded our government lengthen the term of distribution of various imported meats much longer than set by our government. The U.S. demands also contain such absurdities as shortening the quarantine period and expanding the types of meats sold.

In particular, we are nervous about U.S. suggestions that it might apply the U.S. Super 301 trade law by which retaliatory duties could be levied. The U.S. suggestion comes at a time when, prior to the launching of the World Trade Organization (WTO), a unilateral decision

on the settlement of a dispute is extremely limited; the United States must be aware of this. This is tantamount to infringement on the spirit of the WTO. Since our government is ready to agree to U.S. requests to discuss ways to improve the distribution of meats, the United States should stop exercising unreasonable pressure against us. The United States should act more thoughtfully, considering the shriveling of our stock farming and processing industry resulting from the opening of the meat market.

In the meantime, it was clearly a mistake for the ROK to hastily settle the cigarette import memorandum of understanding with the United States six years ago. Acceding to the U.S. request too generously, we are now allowing the United States to conduct improper promotion of cigarettes. The United States should come to the negotiation table as soon as possible to discuss corrective measures with our government. We hope the United States will respond to this sincerely.

Ministry Forms 'Globalization' Policy Team

SK2411022594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0209 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 24 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry formed a task force on the "globalization" policy announced by President Kim Yong-sam Thursday headed by Assistant Minister Min Hyong-ki of Planning and Management.

The task force will draw up a report to submit to the inter-ministerial committee chaired by the prime minister.

Officials Express 'Perplexity' Over Globalization

SK2211040294 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 21 Nov 94 p 2

[From the "Central Tower" column by Kang Yong-chin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Relevant officials in the Foreign Ministry who have the most responsibility for the "globalization" advocated by President Kim Yong-sam, expressed perplexity over how they should carry out the work because the concept of globalization is so vague.

On 17 November, the Foreign Ministry held a meeting of section chiefs chaired by Vice Minister Pak Kon-u and discussed concrete measures for implementation of globalization. However, most of the participants remained silent, like a mute with honey in his mouth.

A participant asked about "the difference in concept between internationalization and globalization." He gave a somewhat sardonic response, stating: "President Kim has tried to apply political pressure indirectly to the Democratic Party, which is currently holding the National Assembly hostage."

A relevant official told of the meeting between former President Chon Tu-hwan and Lee Kuan Yew, prime

minister of Singapore. According to him, former President Chon Tu-hwan visited Singapore at the early stage of the Fifth Republic and expressed readiness to extend economic assistance to Singapore. However, Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew noted that Korea is also in a difficult situation, thus showing a negative response. As a result, the atmosphere became awkward. The official added: "Our perception of international reality in which the world pursues us is somewhat exaggerated. The actual situation is that it is we who should pursue the world."

Chilean President Evaluates Asia-Pacific Tour

PY2411001194 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1000 GMT 23 Nov 94

["Exclusive" interview with Chilean President Eduardo Frei by reporter Jose Miguel Alfaro in Seoul, South Korea, on 22 November]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Alfaro] In general terms, what is your evaluation of the results of your tour?

[Frei] I am very happy about the way the tour is turning out due to its importance for our country. I believe we have not yet really perceived the meaning of having joined APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation]. This meant sitting at the same table with representatives of very important countries, countries with great development capabilities and great investment possibilities. This is where our markets are and where our export products are sent. This is without a doubt the part of the world that is experiencing the greatest dynamism. The fact that Chile is the only South American country that has been admitted into this organization is therefore a remarkable achievement for our country.

[Alfaro] In what way will joining APEC give a new direction to the Chilean negotiations for signing a free trade agreement with the United States, or for joining NAFTA, as you have proposed?

[Frei] I believe the fact we are APEC members will give us another dimension, another perspective for looking at our trade agreements in the future. Obviously, as we have repeatedly said, a large part of our trade is here. The most advanced technology is also in this part of the world. The opening into APEC will therefore help us be calmer in better visualizing and understanding our other trade relations, because we have an important presence here.

[Alfaro] Regarding Japan, a strategy was developed in that country in order to achieve basically two objectives: that Japanese businessmen invest in our country, and at the same time that our exports increase and diversify. What will your government do to achieve those two objectives?

[Frei] Basically by having high-level political relations. We have insisted during our tour of all the countries that the first thing is to have a government-to-government

relationship to facilitate the other relations. It is impossible to think only of trade relations or any other type of relations if we don't have excellent political relations. Chile has a good image in the Asia-Pacific region, and this was shown during this visit. During the meetings we discussed several points, and generally what we pointed out is that if we want to make progress in trade relations, we must put an end to barriers. And this is a continuous process. Yesterday we signed two agreements, and two new agreements on protection of investments are about to be signed. We also discussed the issue of eliminating visas and barriers that are basically related to sanitation. We expect to reach an agreement soon with the South Korean Government. These barriers are not only affecting Chile; they affect all countries.

[Aalfaro] Some of the countries you visited, and I am referring specifically to Indonesia, don't have the democratic system as known in the West. In this case, how can the economic and commercial interests of our country be compatible with the defense of democratic values made by your government?

[Frei] We believe the value of democracy is essential. We believe in it, and we believe it is the best system. We also believe that democracy must be constantly perfected. Every country has its own political system. We don't decide the political system of other countries, but said that we fight for democracy, for respect for people, for human dignity, for respect for human rights, which are basic and substantial values. Every country has its own government, and every country has its own development program. What we are doing is sharing experiences to see what we can do [words indistinct] and how we can contribute to strengthening democracy and human rights. [passage omitted]

Korean Victims of WWII Begin Hunger Strike

SK2411090194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0816 GMT
24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Tokyo, Nov. 24 (YONHAP)—Hundreds of victims and bereaved family members of those victimized by Japan's mobilization of Koreans during World War II began hunger strikes Thursday [24 November] in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul and the Japanese Diet building in Tokyo.

More than 100 members of the Association of Bereaved Families of Those Killed During World War II after being taken away forcibly by Japan staged an indefinite hunger strike in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul, urging the Tokyo government to solve the problem of compensating these Korean victims by 1995, which marks the 50th year since the war's end.

Three former "comfort women" used by the Japanese Army as well as 30 members of Korean and Japanese organizations calling for Japanese compensation for the

Korean victims also began a 10-day hunger demonstration in front of the Diet building in Tokyo.

Korea was under Japanese colonial rule when Japan took hundreds of thousands of Koreans between 1941 and 1945 for use as soldiers, comfort women for its armed forces, civilian employees of its military and workers at Japanese war enterprises.

They urged the Japanese Government to include compensation for the Korean victims in its plans to solve postwar problems. They opposed Japan's postwar compensation policy and asked it to pay compensation directly to the individual victims.

They issued a statement urging the Japanese Government to take responsibility for the suffering and hardship it caused Koreans and to issue an open apology.

The Japanese Government, they said, must pay direct compensation to the individual victims in accordance with international custom and return the remains of those killed during World War II that remain overseas.

Seoul, Romania Agree on Nuclear Plant Project

SK2211003494 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in
English 22 Nov 94 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Korea and Romania agreed in a trade ministers meeting yesterday to cooperate in Romania's nuclear power plant project.

Dumitru Popescu, minister of industry of Romania, asked for Korea's participation in the construction of its No. 2 nuclear power plant at Cernavoda.

To the proposal, Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Kim Chol-su of Korea gave a positive response.

"If Romania completes its feasibility study on the nuclear power project and then asks for Korea's assistance in capital, equipment and manpower, we will consider it seriously," Kim said.

The two ministers also agreed to hold the first meeting of the Korea-Romania Economic Council in the first half of next year.

Minister Kim promised Korea's full support for Romania's ongoing economic projects with Korean companies such as Lucky-Goldstar, Daewoo and Korea Electric Power Corp.

South, German JCS Chairmen Discuss Cooperation

SK2211074594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0733 GMT
22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 22 (YONHAP)—Joint Chiefs of Staff [JCS] Chairman Gen. Yi Yang-ho

met Tuesday [22 November] with his German counterpart, Gen. Klaus Naumann, to discuss enhancing bilateral military cooperation and to exchange views on the Korean peninsula, the Defense Ministry said.

The two military leaders traded views on Korean security while pledging to beef up cooperation to secure peace globally and on the peninsula, according to the ministry.

They also agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the defense industry, it said.

Gen. Naumann, visiting here for the first time in his capacity as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will leave Thursday after inspecting the headquarters of the Air Force, Army and Navy, the Special Warfare Forces, the border village of Panmunjom and the War Memorial.

Kim Reaffirms Ties With Leaders Via Telephone

SK2311002294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0014 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 23 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam phoned Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating Wednesday morning and reaffirmed the need to reinforce bilateral ties and ensure their friendship as witnessed by Kim's visit to Canberra last week following the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.

The two leaders reportedly agreed to make further endeavors for regional development including APEC and promotion of friendly relations between their two countries.

President Kim also plans to phone Philippine President Fidel Ramos and Indonesian President Suharto to reaffirm their friendly relations with the momentum of Kim's recent visit to those countries.

Tons of 'Contaminated' Australian Beef Imported

SK2111110394 Seoul YONHAP in English 1043 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 21 (YONHAP)—Several thousand tons of Australian beef imported seem contaminated with a farm chemical and substantial part of it has already been consumed.

A source at the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said Monday [21 November] that a check had showed several thousand tons of beef among those produced in eastern Australia and taken into the country last September and October appear to have been contaminated.

Some of the ruined beef awaits marketing while the remainder has been sold to consumers and restaurants, he said.

The check, the source said, was made on notice from the Australian Government early in the month that beef

produced by 24 farms in eastern Australia was found contaminated with excess residue of a farm chemical, chlofluazuron, after cattle raisers there used as fodder cotton stalks sprayed with the farm chemical.

The ministry decided to send a group of relevant officials to Australia shortly to find out details of the contamination, the source said.

Seoul, Madrid Ratify Pact on Double Taxation

SK2111074294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0701 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 21 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Spain ratified an agreement on avoidance of double taxation and prevention of tax evasion in Madrid on Monday [21 November], the Foreign Ministry said.

The agreement, signed last January, takes effect immediately when the ratified version is exchanged by South Korean Ambassador Cho Kwang-che and Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana Madariaga.

The new pact specifies incomes subject to taxation in each country and provides for special exemptions to prevent double taxation in both the host and home countries.

The agreement is mainly intended to avoid tax disputes and to promote investment.

KAERI Official: No Traces of Data Retrieval

SK2111062594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0605 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 21 (YONHAP)—Rome Laboratories of the United States has determined that no data from the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI) were stolen or damaged by a computer hacker, the institute announced Monday.

Commenting on recent press reports that the U.S. Air Force had informed KAERI of hacker intrusions into its computer network in March and April, the announcement said the reports were based on an expanded interpretation of the U.S. Air Force office of system investigation's report on its probe asking the Pentagon to notify Seoul of hacker penetration of the KAERI computer network.

In electronic mail sent to the system engineering research institute in Seoul on Nov. 10, Rome's network Manager David M. Gubbins said the hacker did not retrieve information from South Korea nor change any data, simply being satisfied with reading information directories, it explained.

Since press reports on hacker intrusions first surfaced on Nov. 4, KAERI has checked its three main computers and some 200 workstations linked thereto, finding no traces of unauthorized data retrieval, changes or damage, a KAERI official said.

Because important data are stored separately from general data as a precaution against hacker infiltration, the odds of important information being stolen are very slim, he added.

Chong Sung-hwa Files Petition Over 1979 Incident

SK2411123894 Seoul YONHAP in English 1228 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 24 (YONHAP)—Chong Sung-hwa, one-time Army Chief of Staff, and 20 others on Thursday [24 November] filed a petition with the Constitutional Court against the prosecution's recent decision to suspend the indictment of Chon Tu-hwan and his colleagues responsible for the Dec. 12, 1979 incident.

The petitioners, who earlier sued Chon Tu-hwan and his group, claimed that the prosecution's action was in breach of equality and the right to request for trial guaranteed by the constitution.

They said the decision of the prosecution to suspend their indictment although it determined the incident to be a "rebellion" under the military code was an unreasonable act based merely on prosecutors' arbitrary political view.

The petitioners asserted it was also not proper for the prosecution to decide that the incident was not a state rebellion but a military rebellion, noting that the Dec. 12 incident was the starting point of Chon Tu-hwan's rise to presidency on Sept. 1 the following year.

Opposition Party Leader Yi Resigns Assembly Seat

SK2511010494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0059 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 25 (YONHAP)—Opposition Democratic Party (DP) Chairman Yi Ki-taek declared Friday he is resigning his parliamentary seat to attain his objective of having the "masterminds" of the Dec. 12, 1979 military "rebellion" indicted.

"The military rebels involved in the Dec. 12 (incident) should be put on trial for them to be judged by history," Yi emphasized in a news conference held at DP headquarters in Mapo, Seoul.

Yi then demanded the dissolution of the incumbent 14th National Assembly so that early parliamentary elections can be held.

The incumbent assembly, he insisted, has failed to root out various irregularities and corruption including the Yulgok military modernization project due to government "interference."

Yi voiced hope that his giving up his parliamentary seat will provide momentum for President Kim Yong-sam to show determination in correcting the national spirit.

Yi said he wanted the National Assembly to be reborn and the Constitutional Court to render a "wise" judgment on indicting the military "rebels."

The DP [Democratic Party] chairman will tender the resignation of his house seat to Speaker Hwang Nak-chu Friday through his Chief Secretary Mun Hui-sang.

Yi's action is likely to drive the rival political camps into a whirlwind over the Dec. 12 "coup d'etat-like" incident.

Insisting that the incumbent 14th National Assembly has failed to better the people's lives, Yi demanded early assembly elections after a wholesale resignation by all lawmakers.

"New elections are necessary for a midterm assessment of President Kim's government," he said.

He said his party has waited for President Kim to act responsibly on the military incident, but the country's present politics faces a crisis due to the ruling party's decision to convene parliament without the opposition party.

Yi insisted the military "mutiny" in 1979 led to the sacrifice of innocent lives and buried democracy, while charging the present government with indulging the "rebels" who usurped national sovereignty.

He then appealed to the people to unite behind the party's struggle against the military incident, noting that its success or failure will be a historic watershed.

After the news conference, Yi visited the graveyard of the April 19 revolution in northern Seoul.

Yi's Resignation Analyzed

SK2511083194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0633 GMT 25 Nov 94

[By Yi Kwang-ho]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 25 (YONHAP)—Opposition Democratic Party (DP) Chairman Yi Ki-taek risked his political life by resigning his National Assembly seat Friday.

Yi's surprise decision to give up his parliamentary seat created waves strong enough to rock the future course of politics, but the move is viewed by many as reflecting his desperation to find a way out of the political ordeal he faces in and outside his own party.

It seems that Yi has chosen this political gambit to force his hard-line struggle over the Dec. 12, 1979, military incident.

Yi, generally regarded as a lucky though vacillating politician, encountered the greatest crisis of his leadership when his hawkish extra-parliamentary struggle was rebuffed by the ruling party and greeted coldly by many members of his own party.

His leadership sustained further damage when DP "god-father" Kim Tae-chung urged the party to return to the National Assembly to tackle major state affairs, advising the DP to cease its extra-parliamentary activities.

Making matters worse, Yi's immediate reaction to Kim's advice only invited scorn from Kim's followers within the DP.

Rep. Kwon No-kap, one of Kim's closest aides, even charged Yi with "behaving haughtily toward his political senior."

Despite giving up his house seat, he is still an opposition leader responsible for steering his party in the right direction. At the same time, he must continue waging his "lonely" struggle demanding that the "military rebels" be punished for the 1979 incident.

But many members of the DP, such as non-mainstreamers and members of Kim Tae-chung faction, are turning a cold shoulder to Yi, and this intra-party turmoil is certain to become a stumbling block to his struggle in the days to come.

Political observers predict that the drawn-out political confrontation over the military incident will be thrown into further confusion with Yi's resignation.

Yi is sure to carry on with his struggle for the time being, regardless of the party's support or members' criticism of his methods.

In the rival camp, the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) must bear a new burden of soothing the DP chairman while keeping a close watch on its internal feud. Moreover, Yi can still show a second or third political card if he fails to win public support for his struggle outside the assembly.

"It's only a prelude," said a close aide to the DP chairman.

The DLP is also having trouble figuring out how to handle the tense political climate. It has decided to operate the National Assembly unilaterally, but the regular session's timetable is likely to be amended to meet the new situation.

The clock is ticking down and the ruling and opposition parties must find a breakthrough as they teeter at the edge of the cliff.

Speculation on Outcome of 1979 Coup Controversy

SK2511040394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0228 GMT
25 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 25 (YONHAP)—How will the Constitutional Court handle an appeal filed Thursday by "victims" of "the coup d'etat-like incident" in December 1979 against the prosecution's decision not to indict former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u and others on "military mutiny" charges?

Examining the constitutional appeal filed by former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Chong Sung-hwa, Ret., and others, the court will form a three-justice panel to decide whether it should rule on the case. Should the decision be affirmative, the case will be referred to all nine justices for a ruling within six months.

There are two points at issue in the case brought by Gen. Chong and the others: One is whether the prosecution's decision not to indict Chon and company after having applied to them charges of "mutiny" under the military criminal law, but not charges of "insurrection," was constitutional, and the other is whether the statute of limitations was suspended for the two former president during their terms in office, as some lawyers are opining.

The Constitutional Court received the case when the legal deadline for taking action was less than 20 days away. Legal circles believe that the court will adjudicate in a full panel before the Dec. 12 deadline, because any adjudication beyond the deadline would invite public and political criticism.

Examining a claim brought by lawyer Chong In-pong in February 1992, just before the 14th National Assembly elections, that article 55 of the National Assembly election law was unconstitutional, the court took only 16 days to rule that Chong was right.

The court justices are expected to engage in hot debate over how to apply the statute of limitations to the two former presidents in examining the case brought by Gen. Chong.

Chong argues that the statute was suspended for Chon and No during their presidencies because the constitution provides under article 84 that "the president shall not be charged with a criminal offense during his tenure of office except for insurrection or treason."

Whether or not the Constitutional Court will follow this argument is a matter of keen interest to the public.

While the Korean Bar Association and some constitutional scholars agree with Chong, the prosecution disagrees, saying: "It's a mere theory and hasn't been proved legally correct."

The Constitutional Court will also decide whether the prosecution's action in bringing military mutiny charges, not insurrection charges, against Chon and company was right.

Should the court rule in favor of Chong's appeal, the prosecution would immediately start reinvestigating the case.

Even after such reinvestigation, whether the prosecution would reverse its former decision not to indict Chon and company is in doubt.

Of the 22 constitutional appeal cases in which the Constitutional Court has ruled against the prosecution's

no-indictment decisions, only seven cases have been brought to a law court after reinvestigation.

Seoul Mayor on Safety of Bridges, Structures

*SK2411010894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0052 GMT
24 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 24 (YONHAP)—Bridges and other civil engineering structures in Seoul are not in danger of collapse, though they do have some safety problems, Seoul Mayor Choe Pyong-yol said Wednesday.

He was referring to the city's ongoing safety checks of these structures at a discussion meeting of the Kwanhun Club, a group of senior journalists, held at the Press Center.

As soon as all Han River bridges have been inspected, the city will make public any safety problems detected and put them into three categories according to degree of safety for repair and maintenance purposes.

Choe said the city, having learned a painful lesson from the recent collapse of the Songsu Bridge, would redress the safety control system for all civil engineering structures by amending regulations concerning these structures.

All structures will now carry an inscription bearing the names of the designer, builder, supervisor and others involved in their construction and a safety control card to record repairs and maintenance.

Choe stressed the city would improve safety controls by purchasing up-to-date safety examination equipment and increasing personnel.

Says No Bridges, Subways in Danger

*SK2411080494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0728 GMT
24 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 24 (YONHAP) Seoul Mayor Choe Pyong-yol said Thursday [24 November] safety checks so far had revealed that no civil engineering structures—Han River bridges, the subway and pedestrian overpasses—were in danger of immediate collapse.

Speaking at a meeting with Seoul chapter leaders of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, however, he added that all but a few of the city's bridges had been found having problems in one way or another, according to a participant.

Choe warned that if these bridges were left unrepaired, no guarantee could be given that there would not be another bridge collapse like that of the Songsu Bridge last month.

In winter, Han River bridges are damaged by snow-melting chemicals such as calcium chloride, but the city

has few means of preventing and examining such damage, he was quoted as saying.

When the city starts repair work on all bridges, he noted, there will be traffic jams on many roads, but Seoul must carry out such work even at the expense of the citizens' inconvenience during work hours.

Former POSCO Head Seeks Medical Aid in Japan

*SK2411073694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0709 GMT
24 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pusan, Nov. 24 (YONHAP)—Pak Tae-chun, former chairman of Pohang Iron and Steel Co. (POSCO), left for Tokyo Thursday [24 November] afternoon to receive further medical treatment after attending the funeral of his mother last month.

Accompanied by two aides, Pak, also a well-known lawmaker under the No Tae-u government, showed up at Kimhae Airport around 1:30 P.M. [0430 GMT] looking slightly worn-out and departed through a VIP room.

He had returned from Japan for his mother's funeral Oct. 10, winding up 17 months of self-imposed exile.

Pak was indicted on charges of graft soon afterwards but the court gave him permission to leave the country temporarily in view of his poor health.

Seoul Decides To Launch Special Tax Inspections

*SK2411090394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0844 GMT
24 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 24 (YONHAP)—The government has decided to form a special inspection team comprising representatives from the cabinet, the Board of Audit and Inspection, and the private sector to conduct a tax probe of 269 cities, counties and wards (administrative districts of big cities) from next Monday [28 November] through year's end.

The decision was made at a meeting was presided over by Prime Minister Yi Yong-tok and attended by Home Minister Choe Hyong-u, Justice Minister Kim Tu-hui, Finance Minister Pak Chae-yun, Information Minister O In-hwan and First State Minister So Chong-won.

The special probe, prompted by the Puchon city tax scandal, will focus on new town areas where real estate trading has been brisk, new development areas where land prices are soaring, cities, counties and wards where taxation has yet to be computerized and other areas deemed vulnerable to taxation irregularities.

The team will be manned by 20-30 auditors from the Prime Minister's Office and government ministries, some 1,000 auditors and revenue officers from municipal and provincial governments, 200 inspectors from the National Tax Administration, and over 50 certified public accountants and licensed tax accountants.

Any irregularities uncovered by the team will be sternly dealt without any exception and be brought to court, government officials said.

BAI, Prosecution To Strengthen Coordination

*SK2411054094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0509 GMT
24 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 24 (YONHAP)—Motivated by the Puchon city tax scam, the government is aiming to strengthen coordination between the Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) and the prosecution for irregularities and corruption involving public officials.

Civil servants implicated in the Puchon city tax scandal fled and destroyed evidence, rendering investigation difficult, due to a lack of close coordination between the prosecution and the BAI.

Anti-corruption officials of the presidential office confer with office and bureau directors-general of the BAI and the prosecution Thursday to analyze problems uncovered in the Puchon tax scam and work out ways to prevent them in the future.

A senior law-enforcement official said, "Though it ascertained embezzlement of tax revenues during a nearly two-month inspection, the Board of Audit and Inspection failed to take follow-up steps like filing a complaint because of an internal rule requiring a resolution by the auditors' committee upon completion of an inspection. As a result, the board has aided the escape of suspects. With the scam serving as momentum, we plan to build a firm coordination system among law-enforcement agencies."

The board recently amended its internal regulations to allow requests for prosecution investigation even during inspections of those civil servants who are feared to flee or destroy evidence.

"As this step alone is not adequate, it is necessary to forge firm coordination among law-enforcement agencies," the official added.

Plans under study reportedly envisage permitting the BAI to ask for a prosecution probe immediately upon finding suspicious practices, even if no concrete evidence is established, so that an investigation can start promptly.

Prosecution Investigates Puchon Tax Case

*SK2511090594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0732 GMT
25 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 25 (YONHAP)—With the scope of tax revenues misappropriated in the Puchon city tax scam snowballing as the prosecution investigates, attention is focusing on how great the total tax embezzlement will turn out to be.

The Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) announced earlier that tax revenues stolen from 1990 until recently

by nine tax officials from the Puchon city administration and three ward offices and nine law agents and their staff members who collaborated with the former topped 2,214 million won (2,767,500 U.S. dollars), comprising 2,096 million won in registration tax and 118 million won in acquisition tax.

Tax revenues embezzled by Kim Chong-ho, a junior tax clerk at Puchon's Ojong ward office were revealed to have exceeded 40 million won by the BAI. After only one day of investigation by the prosecution, however, the figure more than quadrupled to 194 million won in acquisition and registration taxes embezzled over six months from last March to September.

The BAI informed the prosecution that former tax section Chief Ku Chol-so of Puchon's Wonmi ward office, who was arrested Thursday, embezzled 14 million won in tax revenues. The prosecution has discovered, however, that the total comes to 34 million won or 2.7 times the BAI figure.

Faced with such a hefty increase in the amount of embezzled funds compared with BAI figures, many are speculating on how high the final prosecution tally will run.

One generally held view goes that it is premature to guess the total tax embezzlement, since the prosecution has just started its investigation and the number of suspects implicated in the tax scam is likely to increase. The prosecution has thus far only questioned junior tax officials.

Tax clerk Kim Hung-sik of Ojong ward office, who is still in hiding, alleged in a letter sent to law-enforcement authorities that not only junior but also senior tax officials at Puchon City Hall and ward offices were involved in the tax scam.

Prosecution sources, however, predict that the final tax embezzlement sum would at least triple the 2,214 million won announced by the BAI.

The prediction is based on the fact that while the BAI looked mainly into irregularities involving registration tax, the prosecution is checking into acquisition tax as well. When bogus registration tax receipts were uncovered, the BAI merely examined whether acquisition tax was paid for real estate concerned.

The prediction is also supported by the fact that it is much easier to misappropriate acquisition tax than registration tax.

Should the prosecution dig deep enough into the Puchon city tax scam, it might be able to uncover all civil servants involved as well as the full scale of tax embezzlement.

Third-Quarter GNP Growth Rate Reported

*SK2411093994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0913 GMT
24 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 24 (YONHAP)—The economy posted 7.5-percent growth in the third

quarter despite a negative growth rate in the agro-fisheries sector during the period, bringing the country's Gross National Product (GNP) increase rate to 8.0 percent for the first nine months, the Bank of Korea (BOK) said Thursday [24 November].

The GNP increase rate of 7.5 percent during the third quarter represents a slight drop from the 8.9-percent and 7.8-percent GNP growth rates in the first and second quarters, respectively, according to BOK statistics.

The increase rate for production facilities during the third quarter, however, came in at 23.4 percent, the highest since the first quarter of 1988, and the increase rate in consumption surpassed the economic growth rate during the third quarter, raising concerns over excessive spending, the statistics showed.

The BOK expects the annual economic growth rate to far exceed the level of 7.1 percent expected earlier this year under the government's five-year new economic development plan.

By industry, the service sector grew by 11.0 percent, the electricity, gas and tap water industry by 15 percent and the manufacturing sector by 8.8 percent, leading the country's growth during the third quarter.

Within the service industry, the retail, wholesale, restaurant and lodging sectors recorded a 7.8-percent increase rate, down from the second quarter's 8.1-percent rise, while the finance, insurance, real estate and other related service sectors posted a rate hike of 11.4 percent, a sharp rise from 8.7 percent in the first quarter and 7.0 percent in the second quarter.

The finance and insurance sector, in particular, grew by 13.6 percent during the third quarter compared with 4.8 percent in the previous quarter, due to sharp growth in income from stock trading commissions.

The drastic increase in sales of mobile telephones and pagers, meanwhile, resulted in a 19.3-percent growth rate in the telecommunications sector.

The growth rate for light industries reached 5.7 percent during the period, the highest increase rate since the third quarter of 1988 posted a 7.3-percent increase rate, due to expanding sales of food and beverages, according to the statistics. The textile, garment and footwear sectors, however, recorded negative growth rates.

Heavy and chemical industries saw a 10.1-percent growth rate during the third quarter, down from 13.2 percent and 13.1 percent in the first and second quarters, respectively. The agro-fisheries sector recorded minus 4.9 percent growth during the third quarter because the sweltering weather and drought last summer led to a great reduction in fruit and vegetable production. The minus growth rate can also be attributed partly to a decrease in the squid and other fish catches.

The BOK said the hot weather and drought last summer played a pivotal role in reducing the economic growth rate in agro-fisheries sector during the second quarter.

The growth rate of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) excluding the agro-fisheries sector showed 8.7 percent during the third quarter compared with 8.4 percent in the previous quarter.

Household consumption increased 7.6 percent in the third quarter, the same rate as the previous quarter, because of a rise in sales of such durable consumer goods as personal computers, refrigerators and air conditioners, exceeding the economic growth rate during the same quarter.

Investment in production facilities rose 23.4 percent, the highest since the first quarter of 1988 recorded 23.7 percent growth, while imports of goods also rose 21.7 percent in the third quarter, the highest rate since the fourth quarter of 1988 posted 29.7 percent.

Turning to concerns over the higher increase rate of household consumption compared with the economic growth rate, which can signal that economic growth is led by high consumption, BOK officials said: "It's not yet entered the stage of concern."

They said the GDP growth rate excluding the agro-fisheries sector still exceeds the household consumption increase rate, adding that the household consumption increase rate reached 8 to 10 percent in the late 1980s.

BOK To Shift Direct Supervision to Regulation

SK2411005794 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 24 Nov 94 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Bank of Korea (BOK) will shift the focus of its future banking supervision to prudential regulation steering away from the long-standing direct control.

In line with the government's policy of financial liberalization, the central bank will step up prudential regulation to give local banks more autonomy, while abolishing or easing direct regulatory measures, the BOK said yesterday.

The turnabout aims at boosting the autonomy, efficiency and soundness of local banks so that they may sharpen their competitiveness in the age of financial deregulation, it said.

The central bank revealed the change in policy at a meeting of mid-level officials of commercial banks, which it called yesterday.

To promote prudential regulation, the BOK will give the banks more autonomy in picking their heads, setting dividend rates and branching.

They will also be allowed to increase their capital without prior approval from the policy-setting Monetary Board of Korea, and to acquire shares of their subsidiaries up to 20 percent of their net worth.

In return for more autonomy, the banks will be required to be held accountable for their performance and to make public management results periodically.

Banks with poor performance results will be urged to come up with self-rescue plans to strengthen their profitability and productivity, the central bank said.

To step up the financial health of the banks, the central bank will encourage them to eliminate bad loans as early as possible, which it considers are the biggest barrier to their competitiveness.

In particular, the BOK will advise the banks to get rid of problems loans of their overseas branches which amounted to \$242.7 million as of the end of June this year.

The banking industry had been subject to intensive control but the government began to take financial deregulation steps from the late '80s.

At the core of the measures are interest rates which have been deregulated twice so far. The government is scheduled to implement the third-phase interest decontrol this week.

Fostering of Local Economic Autonomy Stressed

SK2411005994 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 24 Nov 94 p 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In order for local autonomy to take firm root in Korea, the central government should help local entities develop themselves into regional economic centers through free competition, Deputy Prime Minister Hong Chae-hyong said yesterday.

Most of all, the government needs to delegate much of its administrative authority and function to local governments, help solidify the latter's finances and make bold deregulation while expanding social infrastructure, said Hong, also minister of the Economic Planning Board (EPB).

At a seminar on "local autonomy and economic policies," sponsored by MAEIL Economic Daily, the government's top economic planner cited specific areas to be transferred to local bodies.

"There can be a difference of views on what should be handed over from central to local governments, but I think local officials will be able to show greater efficiencies in such areas as residents' welfare, land use, regional economic development transportation and education," the deputy premier said.

To help fatten the local purse, Hong said, the government will help local administrations develop regional tax sources by revising local tax codes, introduce more flexibility in local taxation and gradually approach the land tax base to officially-posted prices, in what he said is a move to expand property tax bases, the mainstay of local taxes.

Hong noted, however, that the central government's support would be given according to the self-supportive efforts of different local governments. "The central government's fiscal subsidies and transfer will be provided in proportion to corresponding efforts of local government," he said.

The government will see that its local counterparts do not get into debt beyond their repayment capacity, citing the examples of bankruptcies caused by excessive debts by local governments in foreign countries.

The EPB minister, touching on the government's efforts to help improve the corporate climate for regional enterprises, said that the government will relegate all authorities concerning the establishment and operation of businesses to local officials.

"A total of 1 trillion won (\$1.25 billion) will be released up to 1998 to help finance the development of province-based small to mid-sized businesses linked to corresponding efforts by local governments," Hong said. "To help foster high-quality manpower, the government will set up a science-technology institute in Kwangju, capital of South Cholla Province, and provide extensive support to provincial engineering colleges."

Finally, the government plans to operate a close consultative channel between central and local governments and among local governments themselves, to coordinate policies and minimize conflict of interests.

Army Decides To Form Special Investigation Group

SK2411103294 Seoul YONHAP in English 1021 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 24 (YONHAP)—The Army decided on Thursday [24 November] to form an ad hoc fact-finding committee on Friday to look into the recent controversial remarks made by Maj. Gen. O Hyong-kun.

The committee will be headed by Lt. Gen. Kim Hyong-sun, vice Army Chief of Staff.

A controversy has developed over the remarks made by Maj. Gen. O during a change-of-command ceremony at the Third Military Academy on last Oct. 25.

Formerly a member of the disbanded Hana-hoe Club, O is said to have expressed displeasure toward top military leaders, some political sector and the press in a speech at the ceremony that marked his departure from the duty of academy superintendent.

He allegedly said in the farewell speech that there in the military is no person willing to assume responsibility.

"Military leaders are only busy protecting themselves behind a protective screen, trying to shift responsibility to their subordinates," he was quoted as having said.

O also asserted that the military is lately defenseless from the press which he said beats up the military and that some political sector, too, has trampled down upon the pride of the military, fomenting split in the armed forces.

Burma

Khin Nyunt Receives UN Under Secretary General

BK2311144494 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], received Mr. Rafaeuddin Ahmed, the visiting representative of the UN secretary general and UN under secretary general, at the Defense Ministry's Dagon House at 0800 this morning. Also present at the occasion were Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw; Protocol Department Director General Thura U Aung Htet; Mr. (Francis Bindra), director of the East Asia and Pacific Division of the UN Political Affairs Department; and Miss (Zin Aung Htoo), in charge of Myanmar Affairs at the Political Department.

UN Official Departs 23 Nov

BK2311144694 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Rafaeuddin Ahmed, the visiting representative of the UN secretary general and under secretary general, departed Yangon [Rangoon] this evening aboard a Myanmar [Burma] Airways International plane. The UN under secretary general was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw, Deputy Foreign Minister U Nyunt Swe, and responsible officials.

Malaysian Commander in Chief, Delegation Depart

BK2311143994 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation led by General Tan Sri Borhan Bin Haji Ahmed, commander in chief of the Malaysian Defense Forces, departed Yangon [Rangoon] International Airport this evening aboard a Thai International flight.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Lieutenant General Tin U, Army chief of staff and chief of the No. 1 Bureau of Special Operations of the Ministry of Defense; Major General Tin Ngwe, Air Force chief of staff; Brigadier General Than Tun, joint adjutant general; senior military officers; Malaysian Ambassador John Tenewi Nuek; and Military Attache Lieutenant Colonel Tan Sri Bin Hashim.

Delegates Prepare To Submit Proposal Reports

BK2411100094 Rangoon TV Myanmar Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A coordination meeting of the National Convention delegate group representing technocrats and the intelligentsia was held at 0930 in Meeting Hall No. 3.

Following the opening address by the alternate chairman, U Tin Maung, the proposal paper on the chapter of the constitution on administration compiled by the report preparing team was presented by U Pe Than, deputy chief engineer of Public Works. Meanwhile, the proposal paper on the chapter of the constitution on the judiciary compiled by the report preparing team was presented by U Ye Dwe, a marionette artist. The alternate chairman announced the affirmation of the two proposal reports after obtaining the views of delegates. Next, the delegates selected U Pe Than as speaker and U Morris Kyaw, principal of Pa-an College, as reserve to present the proposal report on administration to the National Convention Plenary Session and U Ye Dwe as speaker and Daw Aye Than, psychology professor of Yangon [Rangoon] university, as reserve to present the proposal report on the judiciary. The meeting ended at 1055 after a closing speech by the alternate chairman.

A coordination meeting of the National Convention delegate group representing civil service personnel was held at 0930 in Meeting Hall No. 8. After the opening address by the alternate chairman, U Tun Shwe, U Tin Aung from the Ministry of Industry-1 and U Yan Naing Aung from the Ministry of Agriculture discussed the collective proposal report of 25 members of the civil service personnel delegates of Hostels No. 10 on the chapter of the constitution on the judiciary. The meeting ended at 1025 following the closing speech by the alternate chairman and after deciding to hold the next meeting at 0930 on 25 November.

The meeting of the group representing special invitees was held at 0930 today in Meeting Hall No. 2. Following the opening address by the alternate chairman, U Wan Tin, the proposal paper on the chapter of the constitution on administration written by Retired Commissioner U Wan Tin was presented on his behalf by U Saw Hla Tun, a teacher from Chaung-U Township, Sagaing Division. Meanwhile, the proposal paper of the Southern Shan State Special Region-6 on the chapter of the constitution on the judiciary was presented by U San Tun. The meeting was recessed at 1045.

When the meeting resumed at 1300, the proposal paper on the judiciary were discussed by U Saw Tun Sein from the War Veterans Organization and Dr. Maung Maung Sein, retired medical superintendent of the Psychiatric Hospital. Following the closing address by the alternate chairman the meeting ended at 1400 after deciding to hold the next meeting at 0930 on 24 November.

It has been learned that the coordination meeting of the panel of chairman of the delegate group representing special invitees was also held at 1430. They discussed and scrutinized the proposal reports presented by the delegates late into the evening.

Cambodia**KR Radio Opposes U.S. Arms Depot in Country**

BK2411154594 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 24 Nov 94

["Communique" issued by "the Spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation" on 23 November; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Presently, the Cambodian nation and people, like the peace- and independence-loving countries of the whole region, clearly see that the United States, the ringleader of the villainous alliance, is busily conducting activities both to intensify the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia and to destroy regional peace and stability. Although the regional peace- and independence-loving countries and peoples have repeatedly opposed and rejected its despicable scheme, the United States is pressuring and threatening them into allowing it to establish its military bases.

The event shows that:

1. The United States joins Australia, France, and communist Vietnam in pursuing their barbarous policy and their enormous crimes against the Cambodian nation and people, who are fighting to liberate their nation and defend the survival of their race.

After the October 1991 Paris accord, they trampled and destroyed the blueprint. They painstakingly maintained communist Vietnamese forces in Cambodia; they opposed the role of the quadripartite Supreme National Council [SNC]; they combined the two-headed elements against national reconciliation, and they continued to fuel the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia. Also, they have continued to ship arms and military personnel to Cambodia to intensify the war. Their actions are an arrogant violation of the sacred right to self-determination of the Cambodian nation and people, an encroachment upon international law and the UN Charter, and a direct collusion with communist Vietnam to kill the Cambodian nation and people and exterminate the Cambodian race. These actions constitute their greatest crimes against the Cambodian nation and people.

2. The regional peace- and independence-loving countries and peoples want Cambodia to achieve, once again, national reconciliation and peace and the region to enjoy peace and stability in the interest of national construction. They diametrically oppose foreign intervention and invasion and vehemently detest war. They strive to establish this region a region of stability and security. They do not want the United States or any other major powers to act as the policeman in this region as in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. They see that Asia and South-east Asia belong to a new geopolitical era. It is peaceful

and regional peace and security are being reinforced and expanded to allow for speedy national construction and development.

Therefore, the fact that the United States threatens the region to let it station military bases and arms depots, shows that it is the most infamous and warmongering country. It is the chief policeman who destroys peace and wants only to fan the flames of war. Countries of the region and its peoples do not want this and oppose this.

3. The most correct stance of the countries of the region and the peoples that the United States, the villainous alliance, communist Vietnam, and the two-headed government have to stop further inflaming the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia serves as a direct warning. This is also an important contribution to preventing the war for peace in Cambodia and security and stability in the region.

The Cambodian nation and people join the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation [PGNUNS] in lending total support for the most correct and just stance of the regional peace- and independence-loving countries and peoples. The nation, the people, and the PGNUNS declare their absolute opposition to the stationing by the United States or any other foreign countries of military bases in Cambodia, both on land and maritime territory.

23 November 1994

Khmer Rouge Spokesman Denies Alleged Abductions

BK2311161294 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 23 Nov 94

["Communique" of the spokesman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea dated 22 November; place not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] I. The Voice of America on 21 November broadcast an abject farce about what it called an interview with residents of Route 68, Siem Reap Province, on alleged abductions by the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK].

II. The spokesman of the party of Democratic Kampuchea [DK] categorically and resolutely rejects this repulsive and obnoxious farce of the United States, the warmongers and assassins who collude with communist Vietnam and the two-headed government to destroy the Cambodian nation, kill the Cambodian people, eat their flesh, and suck their blood.

III. The truth is that the people in general are supporting DK and joining DK and the NADK in the struggle against the communist Vietnamese enemy and traitorous two-headed government.

The Cambodian nation and people clearly see and know very well the love for the nation and people and resolve

to live and die with the people of the NADK and DK. They know very well the high qualities and ethics of the NADK and DK. They clearly see that DK and the NADK are true patriots who defend, save, and help perpetuate the Cambodian nation, people, and race. This issue is as clear as daylight. Like earth and skies, DK and the NADK are different from the two-headed government and the military and civilian administrators of the communist Vietnamese and U.S. puppets who are cruel, fascist, and corrupt and who have constantly cut the people's throats and sucked their blood.

IV. As in the past, at present and in the future, the DK and the NADK will not be afraid to fight resolutely, daring to make sacrifices in defense of the Cambodian nation, people, and race.

When communist Vietnam came to commit aggression, DK was not afraid to fight resolutely in defense of the Cambodian nation, people, and race. When the villainous alliance and UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] came and colluded with communist Vietnam and its puppets to sabotage the Paris agreement, DK was not afraid to fight in defense of the agreement, demanding that the Paris agreement be correctly and thoroughly implemented. But the monsters and the cheap bandits refused to implement it. When they attacked DK and outlawed it, DK has remained unafraid to fight to defend the Cambodian nation, people, and race. It is waging a resolute and continuous struggle to save the nation using the guerrilla and people's war tactics to destroy the two-headed administration from top to bottom, including the cruel civilian administrators who have constantly cut the people's throats in order to liberate the people from the claws of communist Vietnam, the alliance, and their puppets, the two-headed government and to quickly end the war and bring national reconciliation and peace to Cambodia.

22 November 1994
The DK Party spokesman

KR Commentary Assails UN Rights Representative

BK2511013594 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 24 Nov 94

[Unattributed commentary: "The Most Barbarous Violation of Human Rights Is the Annexation of Cambodia by the Four Million Vietnamese Settlers; Does Michael Kirby See It?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Michael Kirby, the notorious human rights chieftain of the United Nations, recently came again to Phnom Penh. He said he came to inspect the human rights situation in Cambodia.

To the entire Cambodian nation and people, at present in Cambodia, the most barbarous violation of human rights is the annexation of Cambodia and the extermination of the Cambodian race being carried out by the

four million ethnic Vietnamese. This is the most fascist and gross violation of the Cambodian people's right to self-determination. It is an attempt to completely exterminate and wipe out a nation, a race, from the world map.

Does Michael Kirby see this human rights violation?

How do the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the UN Charter describe human rights? They say the right to self-determination is a sacred and fundamental right, which is inviolable. Without this right, there will be no human rights and there is no need to talk about anything else.

In Cambodia nowadays, the four million ethnic Vietnamese are striving to kill the Cambodian nation and people and exterminate the Cambodian race. They have barbarously and grossly trampled upon the Cambodian people's right to self-determination for more than 15 years now. If Michael Kirby is really the UN representative on human rights in Cambodia, he absolutely should speak about this matter. If he does not speak about the four million ethnic Vietnamese annexing Cambodia, he is not the UN representative on human rights in Cambodia. He will be just a villain wearing a label of human rights who actually serves the Western alliance's policy to defend the Vietnamese forces in their attempt to exterminate the Cambodian race.

The Cambodian nation and people do not want this kind of villain.

NADK Spokesman Denies Troops on Thai Soil

BK2311131894 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 23 Nov 94

["Communique" of the spokesman of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea dated 22 November; place not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] I. It was reported that the governor of Preah Vihear Province of the two-headed government—puppets of communist Vietnam and the villainous alliance—had blown a most malodorous wind when he contended that 200-300 Khmer Rouge soldiers were taking refuge in Thai territory.

II. The spokesman of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] vehemently rejects the shitty and abject misleading propaganda campaign of the traitorous two-headed government and their bosses, communist Vietnam, and the villainous alliance.

Democratic Kampuchea and the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation [PGNUNS] respect the sovereignty of Thailand as well as that of all other countries, while communist Vietnam and the alliance most arrogantly threaten and violate Thailand's sovereignty. The two-headed government has

ceaselessly abducted and killed Thai people along the border. Who does not know about all of that?

III. Such an accusation by the two-headed government, communist Vietnam, and the villainous alliance is not unprecedented. But whenever they resort to such an action, they always generate scorn and contempt of the general public. People have noted that each time these warmongering monsters are beaten either on the battlefield or on any other fronts, they always automatically shift the blame on and accuse others. The two-headed government is merely a group of gallows birds whose only concern is to rob the people and cut their throats, sell out and plunder the nation, and serve foreign countries in the basest manner. People in Phnom Penh and the provinces call them Vietnamese running dogs, U.S. running dogs, second-rate punks, rats, and so on.

IV. The Cambodian nation and people and the NADK do not want war. We want only to end the war and bring about national reconciliation, peace, and national reunification. This stand is seen and approved by everybody. It is for this reason that the entire Cambodian nation and people lend full support to the NADK and PGNUNS. However, the entire Cambodian nation and people resolutely oppose and fight the two-headed government, lackeys of communist Vietnam, and the alliance who continue to fan the war in this country. The fate of the traitors and foreigners' lackeys is being buried by the Cambodian nation and people like that of those traitors before them.

22 November 1994

The spokesman of the NADK

KR Radio Attacks Australian Defense Policy

BK2511021394 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 24 Nov 94

[Unattributed commentary: "Does Australia Want To Serve as a U.S. Gendarme in Southeast Asia?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Australian Defense Minister Robert Ray issued a white book on his so-called cooperation with countries in the region for the defense of Australian security. In this white book, Robert Ray pretended to accept that Australia cannot arrange a military alliance as in the past because the ASEAN countries do not want to become an enemy to any other country.

It is true that countries in this region do not want a military alliance. They do not want any country to set up military bases on their land and seas. They do not want war. They only want this region to enjoy peace and stability.

In such a situation, the Cambodian nation and people would like to give the following suggestions to Australian Defense Minister Robert Ray and Foreign Minister Gareth Evans:

1. Australia has been and is cooperating with communist Vietnam to continue kindling the communist Vietnamese war of aggression to kill the Cambodian nation and people. This is what Robert Ray and Gareth Evans call cooperation to defend Australia's security.

2. If you villains are not warlike, if you stop coming to join with communist Vietnam in continuing to kindle the communist Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia, Australia, United States, France, and other countries will certainly be able to establish cooperation with both the Cambodian nation and people and the other countries in this region. Through this, there will be security in the region, Australia certainly will be protected, and no country will be a threat to Australia, the United States, or France.

Therefore, you should write another white book by clearly setting a new geography for Asia and Southeast Asia. Moreover, you should stop coming to serve as a U.S. gendarme in this region and stop kindling the war in Cambodia.

KR Communique Rejects Shipping Accord With SRV

BK2311134794 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 23 Nov 94

["Communique" of the spokesman of Foreign Ministry of the "Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation" dated 22 November; place not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] I. On 3 April 1994 communist Vietnam arranged an agreement on Mekong River navigation for the two-headed puppets to sign on behalf of Cambodia. According to this so-called agreement, communist Vietnam declared that ships and cargo entering or exiting Cambodia via the Mekong River are subject to the laws of communist Vietnam. This means that they must first request communist Vietnam's permission and pay an array of taxes arbitrarily levied by communist Vietnam.

II. The Cambodian nation and people and the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation [PGNUNS] reject this so-called agreement and declare it totally null and void. This agreement fully and grossly violates the international convention guaranteeing free, unimpeded navigation on the Mekong River for Cambodia-bound ships and cargo. The relevant international convention clearly stipulates that the Mekong River is an international thoroughfare. Navigation on this river also has an international character that all parties to this convention, including Cambodia and Vietnam, must respect. Therefore, communist Vietnam has no right whatsoever to revise and trample on this international convention. Communist Vietnam must absolutely respect this international convention in all its entirety.

III. The Cambodian nation and people and the PGNUNS solemnly condemn the two-headed government and communist Vietnam for trampling on the international convention concerning the free navigation on the Mekong River.

IV. The Cambodian nation and people and the PGNUNS also denounce and condemn communist Vietnam and the Australian Government for conniving to violate this convention by planning to build a bridge against the international law on the Mekong River in southern Vietnam.

The international law clearly stipulates that bridges on the Mekong River must be at least 37.5 meters high so as not to impede the free navigation on the Mekong River. Communist Vietnam and Australia must respect this international law.

22 November 1994

The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the PGNUNS

Sihanouk To Return in Jan if Cured of Cancer

*BK2411015694 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT
23 Nov 94*

["Message to compatriots" issued by King Norodom Sihanouk in Beijing; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] I would like to pay my reverence with high respects, profound affection, and lofty faithfulness to the two supreme patriarchs, Venerable Samdech Khousananda, Venerable Samdech Pouthiveang, Venerable Samdech Mongkoltepeacha, all the superior monks of the Buddhist clergy, all the provincial head monks, all abbots, and all Buddhist monks. I would like also to extend my profound love with eternal faithfulness to brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all compatriots whom I miss so much. I would like to inform all of you that I have to stay away from you for a few more months to get medical treatment from the PRC doctors. I need more medical treatment from the most experienced Chinese doctors not only for cancer, but also for [words indistinct] and other ailments.

In January 1995, if I am cured of the cancer—that is if this disease no longer exists in my body, my bone marrow—I will be able to return to our motherland to pay respects to all venerable monks and to get together with brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all compatriots. But if this cancer recurs, I will continue to receive more courses of chemotherapy.

I am sending my wife, Queen Norodom Monineat Sihanouk, back to our motherland, on my behalf, to pay respects to all venerable monks, to ask after and get together with brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and all compatriots, and to bring some gifts for distribution to humanitarian and

health organizations, and so forth, and to all the poor brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and compatriots who urgently assistance. The Queen will also represent me to perform a religious ceremony to pray to the Triple Gems, all gods, and the souls of former kings and queens for them to bless our nation and motherland with peace and happiness so that our people and motherland will again live in peace, happiness, prosperity, and progress as they used to enjoy in the past era of Sangkum Reas Niyum.

Our Kingdom of Cambodia will be able to last forever and enjoy the full independence and territorial integrity only when all of us achieve peace and national unity in the reconciliation of our entire nation.

The Queen will have the great honor and good opportunity to stay in our motherland for 10 days together with all venerable monks and the esteemed and beloved brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and compatriots.

May the two supreme patriarchs, Venerable Samdech Khousananda, Venerable Samdech Pouthiveang, Venerable Samdech Mongkoltepeacha, all the superior monks of the Buddhist clergy, all the provincial head monks, all abbots, all Buddhist monks, and all brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and compatriots enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha for longevity, social prestige, happiness, strength, and enlightenment.

Please accept my best regards, high reverence, and profoundest affection.

Sihanouk Suggests Amnesty for Jailed Coup Leader

*BK2411073794 Hong Kong AFP in English 0725 GMT
24 Nov 94*

[Report by Reach Sambath]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 24 (AFP)—King Norodom Sihanouk has called on the Cambodian government to consider granting amnesty to General Sin Sen, who was recently sentenced to 18 years in prison for his role in the July abortive coup d'etat.

"I received a letter from Madame Sin Sen and her two daughters requesting me to give amnesty to His Excellency Sin Sen," King Sihanouk said in a November 23 letter to acting head of state Chea Sim and co-premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen.

"Given this, I would like the three Samdechs (Chea Sim, Prince Ranariddh, and Hun Sen) to take (this request) into consideration because Prince Norodom Chakrapong and His Excellency Sin Song are living freely, abroad even though the court has already sentenced them," King Sihanouk said in the letter obtained by AFP.

The three government leaders have yet to respond publicly to the king's appeal.

A military court in Phnom Penh sentenced in absentia Prince Norodom Chakrapong and former interior minister Sing Song, the two main coup leaders, to 20 years in prison.

Sin Sen, who had recently been promoted to secretary of state for the interior and was arrested in a security sweep following the coup, was also sentenced by the court in October to 18 years in prison.

Sin Sen's defence lawyer said after the trial that he would appeal the verdict. The two main coup leaders had disappeared and his client was made the fall guy, the lawyer said.

Prince Chakrapong was allowed leave the country the day after the failed July 2 putsch, following the intervention of his father, King Sihanouk.

Sin Song later escaped arrest from inside the defence ministry in the capital and fled along with his guards to Thailand where they were apprehended for illegal entry. Sin Song is now being detained while Bangkok decides on his request for asylum abroad.

The government has demanded that he be returned but Thailand has said it must first decide whether Sin Song is a political or criminal fugitive.

The coup attempt was foiled when troops loyal to the government intercepted over 100 armed security personnel travelling in a convoy of armoured personnel carriers (APCs), and prevented them from reaching the capital.

No shots were fired and the security personnel in the APCs were allowed to return to their bases without being punished.

Diplomats said they believed that other high-ranking government figures may also have been involved in the coup but that there was no real attempt to bring them to justice for fear of provoking further instability.

Ranariddh Speaks to Khmer Rouge Defectors

*BK2511111294 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT
25 Nov 94*

[Speech by First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh at a get-together with Khmer Rouge returnees in Siem Reap Province; date not given—recorded; poor reception precludes further processing]

[FBIS Summary] Officers and men, members of the Khmer Royal Armed Forces [KRAF]: As first prime minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, co-commander in chief of the KRAF, and in particular as the son of our king, I am very moved and happy to meet

all of you who have voluntarily returned to join the national community with our royal father as leader. "We are all Cambodians."

Many of you come from Phnum Kulen Mountain, which was glorious during the Angkor era. Our kings, such as Jayavarman VII, not only liberated the country from the domination of Champa but also expanded Cambodian territory to Champa in the east, to Vientiane and Luang Prabang in Laos, and up to Phimai in present-day Thailand. This was possible because Cambodians were united at the time. We were united again in 1953, after our father won independence from France and we were able to defend our territory. After 1970 we were split, and foreigners both in the east and the west benefited.

Our king has called upon us to unite under the throne and to acknowledge the Constitution, which was born from the people's will and not set up by the Vietnamese or anybody else. Our father is king because of the Constitution adopted by the National Assembly, which was elected by the Cambodian people. "I most warmly welcome all of you." This is the first point.

The second point is this: Pol Pot keeps telling us to fight the Vietnamese. Our father used to tell and write to Khieu Samphan that the "Royal Government may have made some mistakes on some issues, but on territory and sovereignty you are wrong. I am the master of the land; I am the king. If the Royal Government does not defend the land, I, Sihanouk will not accept this."

The KRAF have the important task of defending our territory. There were reports about border problems in (?Kompong Cham). We went to Takeo Prey Veng and Kampot earlier. There was a meeting the other day to discuss this issue. "Where is Pol Pot now? I want to talk to him, he who has sent our compatriots to die. Pol Pot is buying land in Thailand." He keeps talking about the Vietnamese. He hates the Vietnamese but he burns Cambodian houses and frightens away investors and tourists.

"Furthermore, I would like to ask you this: From where did he attack the Royal Armed Forces? From the Thai side. Why? Because he was supported from there. What does this mean? It means that whenever Cambodians are split and are quarreling, foreigners always interfere. Who is in control of Preah Vihear? In principle, it is said that Pol Pot is in control. Our father took the Preah Vihear temple case to the international court and got it back from Thailand. Now the former Democratic Kampuchea is taking over Preah Vihear. In reality, Thais are walking around at will in Preah Vihear. What our father got back is now being given to others. What patriots!"

"Finally, I would like to talk about the third point; it is already nighttime. It is most correct that you have come back." I support all of you; come and join us. "Whenever we are united, we are strong. I promise all of you that not a patch of land will be lost, but Cambodia has to be strong before we can defend our nation and territory. We

cannot do this by killing our fellow countrymen and burning our compatriots' houses."

In my view, you should return to Kulen and not stay at the training center. You should return and defend the land there. "Our father went to Kulen in the past to shave his head, but now the area is inaccessible because of the Khmer Rouge. Can we get Phnum Kulen back? Get it back so I can go there too."

"I would like to inform His Excellency General Khan Savoeun, who is charge of this military region: If our compatriots want to return to their region, let them do so with their families. We should consolidate villages and communes and not withdraw from there. We will arm the local population and reestablish the local administration" and provide assistance to the local population.

Ranariddh, Hun Sen Chair New Border Commission

BK2411064394 Phnom Penh AKP in French 0405 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Phnom Penh 24 Nov (AKP)—An interministerial meeting took place on 16 November under the presidency of Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh and Samdech Hun Sen, respectively first and second prime ministers of the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC], said an RGC spokesman.

The meeting discussed the issue of the boundaries of Kompong Cham and Takeo Provinces with Vietnam and settled the problem concerning the export of logs in Koh Kong Province and Sihanoukville. It decided to establish a national authority in charge of border affairs with the first and second prime minister as cochairmen, and the coministers of the interior and the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation as deputy chairmen.

The meeting also resolved that new procedures to control the export of logs and sawn timber be formulated, added the spokesman.

Finance Ministry Rejects Rumors of Aid Suspension

BK2511111994 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0200 GMT 25 Nov 94

["Press communique of the Finance and Economy Ministry"; dated 24 November]

[FBIS Translated Text] Recently, there were rumors intended to frighten the national and international public. They have the characteristics of political and economic sabotage. The rumors say that in 1995 international organizations and donor countries will either suspend or reduce their aid to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The Finance and Economy Ministry has the honor of rejecting these groundless instigative rumors and would like to inform the national and international public that:

1. The rumors are lies because a mission from the International Monetary Fund, IMF in short—a major contributor of aid and funds to the Kingdom of Cambodia for economic reforms, and which holds the key to international organizations and other donor countries providing support to the Royal Government of Cambodia through successive aid programs—has on 16 November 1994, accepted the policy and economic measures of the Royal Government to prepare for the continuation of aid in 1995 as planned.

2. Since October 1994, bilateral- and multi-lateral aid donor countries and major aid international organizations, such as the World Bank, WB; the Asian Development Bank, ADB; the UN Development Program, UNDP; and many other international organizations have successively signed with the Royal Government of Cambodia many documents to provide aid in 1995. Also, some international organizations and countries even plan to increase aid and funds.

3. In March 1995, aid donor countries and international organizations that are members of the (ICORC) [International Conference On the Reconstruction of Cambodia] will meet in Paris, France, to coordinate aid for the Kingdom of Cambodia.

4. Based on the concrete results achieved so far by the Royal Government, countries and international organizations continue to provide even more effective assistance to the Royal Government of Cambodia, unlike the groundless rumors spread by a small group of persons to serve their own political ambitions and the interest of a handful of individuals.

Phnom Penh, 23 November 1994
The Finance and Economy Ministry

Drought, Floods Reduce Province's Rice Crop

BK2511122394 Phnom Penh AKP in French 0358 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Phnom Penh 25 Nov (AKP)—According to statistics from the agricultural service of Kandal Province, over 11,000 hectares of rainy season rice in four districts—S'ang, Kandal Stoeng, Ponhea Loe, and Khsach Kandal—are affected by drought.

The provincial authority held a meeting recently to study ways the crop can be salvaged. It was decided to begin by saving about 5,000 hectares of rice located next to water sources.

The floods last August damaged over 15,000 hectares of the 440,900 hectares of rice planted during the past rainy season and destroyed the majority of dikes and sluices.

The province plans to grow 40,000 hectares of rice this dry season and restore three reservoirs in the districts of

Kaoh Thom, Khsach Kandal, and S'ang. The reservoirs can irrigate over 3,010 hectares of rice fields. Furthermore, the province has allocated 78 million riel for raising the dike along the Prek Thnaot River which could prevent floods in the region.

For 1995, the entire country will need a supplement of between 200,000 and 300,000 tons of rice, including 60,000 for Kandal Province alone.

Indonesia

Alatas Says 29 Timorese Youths Can Leave Country

BK2411100794 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 0805 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Jakarta, 24 Nov (ANTARA)—Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said one of the 29 East Timorese youths wanted in relation to a murder investigation, and who is now staying at the U.S. Embassy compound in Jakarta, has been allowed to leave Indonesia.

"Our political decision is to allow all of them to go overseas," Alatas told journalists after he attended a coordinated ministerial level meeting at the office of the Coordinating Minister for Politics and Security today.

Coordinating Minister for Politics and Security Susilo Sudarman echoed Alatas. "We presume that he is not guilty," Minister Susilo said, adding that: "Just let those youths go".

Alatas said the youth, Louis Maria Lopez, is only suspected of committing murder. "We will presume that he is not guilty. Anyone who has not been sentenced by the court is not guilty yet," he added. Therefore in accordance with the Government's decision, all of them can leave Indonesia.

A few days earlier Major General Hindarto, chief of Jakarta metropolitan police district, said Lopez is a suspect in a murder case at the Tanah Abang market area and is also on the police wanted persons list. He and five others who were arrested, are suspected to have murdered a man named Halibu in the middle of April this year.

Youths To Depart for Brussels 24 Nov

BK2411110594 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1010 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Arlindo Frietas de Araujo Fernandez, East Timorese youth who underwent medical treatment at the Friendship Hospital, has been discharged. He joined his friends at the U.S. Embassy compound in Jakarta on Thursday.

Fernandez arrived in the compound at 1410 West Indonesian Time [0710 GMT] in a car belonging to the U.S. Embassy license plate number CD 12-48, accompanied

by his friend Bonaventura and two embassy staff. Fernandez was brought to the Friendship Hospital on Saturday, 19 November, by U.S. Embassy staff.

Meanwhile, it is understood that the East Timorese Youths are expected to leave Indonesia for Brussels on a KLM flight number 838 on Thursday night.

The youths will first remain in quarantine in Brussels before they are allowed to proceed to the country they wish to go to. [passage omitted]

The East Timorese youths have refused political asylum offered by the Portuguese Government since they began their protest. However, they later accepted the offer.

AFP Reports New Unrest in East Timor

BK2411070094 Hong Kong AFP in English 0506 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jakarta, Nov 24 (AFP)—Student examinations at the University of East Timor in Dili were interrupted Thursday [24 November] after a confrontation between students and police in which stones were thrown and teargas used, a lecturer and a student said. The incident came on the day 29 East Timorese demonstrators, who had been occupying part of the United States embassy in Jakarta for the past 12 days, were due to leave the compound to take up an offer of political asylum in Portugal.

The disturbance started when three plain-clothes security personnel, who had entered the campus, were chased outside by students, where they were confronted by "hundreds" of police, a student, who asked not to be identified, said from the university by phone. Police then threw stones and used teargas, driving the students back into the campus, the student eyewitness said. No one was wounded or arrested, he said. A lecturer, who also requested anonymity, described the police action as "very provocative."

Contacted by phone after the hour-long confrontation ended at around 10:00 a.m. (0200 GMT), he said the situation was calm and safe in the campus, although students were not leaving and the police were still grouped outside the university. The university's vice rector, Armindo Maia, was speaking to students and was unable to come to the phone to confirm the details of the incident.

The province's military commander, chief of police and military spokesman were not immediately available to comment on the incident.

There have been a series of small civil disturbances in Dili since November 12, the third anniversary of the 1991 massacre of civilians by Indonesian troops at Dili's Santa Cruz cemetery.

Jakarta has been very critical of the foreign media for its coverage of the events accusing them of inciting the

violence and expelling five foreign journalists from the province this week because they did not have the proper permits to travel there.

East Timorese pro-independence forces have been fighting a guerilla war in the former Portuguese colony since Indonesia invaded the enclave in 1975 before unilaterally annexing it the following year in a move not recognised by the United Nations.

Suharto Briefed on Outcome of OPEC Conference

BK2411082994 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 0458 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jakarta, 24 Nov (ANT-ARA)—Following his meeting with President Suharto in Jakarta on Thursday morning, I.B. Sujana, minister of mining and energy, spoke to journalists.

He said that the recently completed annual OPEC Conference in Bali had not discussed the possibility of Iraqi oil returning to the international market. However, OPEC was ready to hold an emergency meeting if the United Nations finally lifted the embargo on Iraq's oil exports.

Sujana said the two-day OPEC Conference in Bali had not discussed the possibility of Iraq's reentry into the world oil market because the lifting of the embargo is within the jurisdiction of the UN Security Council.

However, the OPEC was willing to hold an emergency meeting to discuss all the ramifications if the UN finally lifted the oil export embargo on Iraq, he added. [passage omitted]

On the occasion, the minister also reported to the president on oil exploration activities in the Timor Gap. He said that several operators had started the oil exploration there, but until now only two wells with a capacity of 5,800 barrels per day had been found.

To date, petroleum experts were still carrying out studies on oil reserves in the Timor Gap. However, so far the area was known to contain only 50 million barrels of oil reserves.

Sujana had also reported to President Suharto on the efforts by Pertamina, the state-owned oil corporation, to search for markets for liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Natuna, Riau.

Indonesia has been selling its LNG to South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan. It was hoped that, among other countries, Thailand and India would also import the LNG.

The LNG project in Natuna was estimated to cost U.S. \$34 billion; it was expected to begin operations in 1995 and last eight years.

Philippines

Defense Secretary on Finalizing Pact With U.S.

BK2511025994 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network in Tagalog 1000 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Secretary Renato De Villa finds no compelling reason to rush the finalization of the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement [ACSA] between the Philippines and the United States. He stressed this in an interview at Camp Aguinaldo early today. According to De Villa, the agreement needs to be studied closely to be sure that it does not violate the Constitution. He admitted though, that the agreement will bolster the modernization of the country's military facilities. The draft agreement is currently under the early phase of examination by the R.P. [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Mutual Defense Board.

[Begin De Villa recording in English] The economic component can also be availed of even outside the ACSA when the ships make port calls. When the ships make port calls here they are authorized to rewater, refuel, and even handling services are authorized in ordinary port calls not necessarily via ACSA. [end of recording]

On the other hand, Nuclear Free Philippines and other progressive organizations call for the scrapping of R.P.-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty. Former NDF [National Democratic Front] spokesman Satur Ocampo says the agreement will pave the way for the return of American troops in the country. The entry of foreign troops in any part of the country is strictly prohibited in the Constitution. In this regard, Ocampo alleges that the proposed ACSA is a ploy for the return of American troops, which were expelled through the refusal of the Senate to ratify the retention of U.S. bases in the country. Ocampo and Rolalio Simbulan pointed out the positive outcomes of the decision.

[Begin Ocampo recording in progress, in English] ...as the Indonesian and the Malaysian and Thailand have rejected the proposals. You see, with no reason...no our... [pauses] the disadvantages that we had undergone in the (?non-related) treaties with the United States. We should be more vehement in denying that their request is (?approved) because this is usually [words indistinct]. [end of recording]

President Discusses APEC's Bogor Declaration

BK2511062294 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 21 Nov 94 p 7

[Transcript of interview with President Fidel Ramos by pool of journalists including BUSINESS WORLD correspondent Al R. Dizon; date and place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Q: What do you think of the Bogor Declaration that President Suharto announced a few hours ago?

FVR (Fidel V. Ramos): The APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] Economic Leaders' declaration of common resolve represents the consensus of the leaders of the 18 economies represented in APEC. The very comprehensive coverage of the major issues as encapsulated in the declaration, provides a very firm direction for the future cause of APEC to take.

This will certainly not only improve and open up and facilitate trade and investment, but it will also result in the expansion of our respective economies leading to a better quality of life for all our people.

Q: Some people believe that it is too ambitious, too much, too soon.

FVR: I don't believe so. The trade liberalization we are looking at runs up to the year 2010 for the industrialized economies, and the year 2020 for the developing countries, including the Philippines—it's still a generation away.

In the case of the Philippines, since we joined APEC, and before that, since we agreed under the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) framework to move towards free trade and liberalization and the eventual removal of trade barriers between our smaller community of ASEAN, the economy of the Philippines has really picked up.

Of course, economic performance really depends on the capacity of each country and the conditions that it finds itself. But in our case, I can say that the Philippines has benefited from our membership in ASEAN and in APEC.

Q: Do you think that APEC economies will be able to share their prosperity with each other in the long run?

FVR: That's what APEC is all about. It is a community of neighbors. It is an extended family consisting of 18 countries in Asia-Pacific. It's true that there is a diversity in the economic conditions, the sizes, motivations, cultural backgrounds of the peoples therein. But I think diversity could be an advantage and not as much as a disadvantage.

The more advanced countries have pledged under our various resolutions and declarations, culminated by Bogor today, to precisely cooperate more closely for the mutual benefit of all.

Q: The declaration seems to be too unanimous, too good to be true. Don't you think so?

FVR: You must understand that the declaration was not the product of one day's work, of people getting together. There was quite a bit of patient, determined and intense preparation that went into the APEC meeting here in Indonesia. President Suharto gave a very effective kind of leadership.

Q: Do you see any loopholes in the declaration?

FVR: The Bogor Declaration is a declaration of policies, not a perfect product. There were some differences arising from each country's different conditions from the other. In the case of the Philippines, we have always been putting as the most important consideration in our long-range economic, social, political, and cultural development the well-being of the people.

I am the head of the administration party in the Philippines. There is very powerful statement in the Bogor Declaration pertaining to the need to develop out human resources. It was recognized in that meeting, because the human factor in production—the labor component—must be given as much protection if not more so than protection given to the other components like capital, intellectual rights and natural resources.

As a net exporter of labor in the world market, we in the Philippines are making sure that our workers, our managers, our experts, our skilled people who participate in production, in our part of the world, should be given protection as befits a human being.

Q: It has been said that since you came to power, the Philippines is no longer the perennial bogey. Would you say that?

FVR: I do not think any country can say that because our problems arise everyday. But in terms of the medium term, and I am looking at six years, and the longer term, beyond that, we have been able to put in place in the Philippines the needed structural reforms.

The social programs, as well as the improvement in the quality of our human resources, which combine to make us more competitive and more capable in the regional global economy. I must emphasize that for the Philippines, the most important factor in production, ensuring competitiveness, is our human resources. We are proud of that. There are some 65 million Filipinos who enjoy access to basic universal education, and in their later years are accorded the opportunity to improve their skills in a so-called dual training program; beyond that—attendance at state and private colleges and universities. The Philippines has one of the highest literacy rates in the whole of ASEAN.

Q: The Philippines' GNP rate has been rising. It hit 4.6 percent recently.

FVR: In the first six months of 1994, the rate jumped to 6.1 percent in real terms. This is quite a big difference to the 3.5 percent or so achieved during the same period in 1993. We are optimistic that we shall attain our projected growth rate of 6.6 percent for 1994.

In addition to this, the other macro-economic parameters are also quite positive. Interest rates have gone down to about 8.8-9 percent from twice that figure some three-four years ago. Inflation has been brought down to about 7.8 percent. We are confident of bringing it further down to 7.5 percent by the end of the year. In 1995-1996, we'll bring it down even further. We also have been able

to accumulate \$7.6 billion in reserves. Beyond that the Philippines peso has remained strong against the U.S. dollar. These very positive developments in our economy have provided more income and higher purchasing power to each Filipino.

Communist-Led NDF Announces Recent Reorganization

BK2411065694 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 21 Nov 94 p 5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Calapan, Oriental Mindoro—The communist-led National Democratic Front [NDF] has expelled a well-known Mindoro social thinker and activist and 10 other prominent personalities.

In a one-hour broadcast of Radyo Pakikibaka [Radio for Struggle] Friday night on a vacant FM channel, the NDF said a "national conference" has expelled former priest Edicio de la Torre, a resident of San Antonio, Naujan town, some 32 km south of here, Francisco Gonzales and Mangette Manalo-Lopez for "claiming to be NDF leaders in the country."

It also said the NDF has expelled Sixto Carlos Jr., Byron Bocar and Nathan Quimpo for "claiming to be NDF leaders abroad."

Ricardo Reyes, Arturo Tabara, Filemon Lagman, Romulo Kintanar and Joel Rocamora were also expelled for being "impostors, saboteurs and opportunists."

The broadcast, which started around 8:00 p.m. Friday night, also announced the election, in an NDF national conference, of Mariano Orosa, Claro Recto Luz and Elias Dipasupil as NDF chair, vice chair and secretary general, respectively.

It said a special resolution was passed during the conference designating Manuel Romero, believed to be the nom de guerre of NDF leader Antonio Ma. Zumel, as "honorary NDF chair."

It also appointed The Netherlands-based Luis Jalandoni as NDF "international relations representative" and to represent it in the peace negotiations with the government. The talks bogged down last month with the government.

"The NDF national conference affirms the modern national democratic revolution and the socialist reconstruction as the two stages of the people's war," said the broadcast, anchored by Jacinto Baldemor and Maria Teresa Guerrero, both assumed names.

Baldemor and Guerrero said "Radyo Pakikibaka" goes on the air "once every two months."

The signal was received here loud and clear. It was apparently originating from Quezon province. Lucena City-based FM and AM stations are reaching this island-province clearly.

The same broadcast said the NDF is recognizing the leadership of the working class through the Communist Party of the Philippines. It also affirms the unity of the workers and the peasants in pursuing the revolution.

It said the NDF recognizes "equal representation" and respects the "initiative, independence and integrity" of its member organizations.

It said NDF is open to "concensual, consultative and confederal unity" [as published] with other groups. It vows to develop "bilateral and multilateral relations" with other "progressive and positive" forces.

Thailand

Khmer Rouge Reportedly Kill 25 Thai Hostages

BK2411141994 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1200 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is some frightening news. Khmer Rouge soldiers have reportedly killed more than 25 Thai workers after they did not receive the ransom they demanded. Two Thai workers who managed to escape the massacre said that the Khmer Rouge captured 33 Thai woodcutters in the border area of Ubon Ratchathani Province on 16 November and demanded as much as 5 million baht ransom for their release.

Siko Buachu, 45, one of the escapees, is now receiving medical treatment in a hospital in Ubon Ratchathani Province. He told reporters that he and five colleagues were the only survivors. Some 100 Khmer Rouge soldiers shot the Thai workers at point-blank range after they did not receive the ransom money on 22 November, three days after the deadline. Only 300,000 baht was sent to the Khmer Rouge.

Nitthisak Ratchaphit, governor of Ubon Ratchathani Province, told reporters that the provincial government is working with the military to find ways to rescue the other five or six workers who are believed to have survived the massacre. If the workers were really killed by the Khmer Rouge, attempts will be made to bring their bodies home.

Leaders Clear Khmer Rouge Issue With Australians

BK2411073094 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Nov 94 p 11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A visiting Australian parliamentary delegation yesterday said it had gained better understanding of Thailand's policy on Cambodia and that the Khmer Rouge was an internal issue to be resolved by Cambodians.

Laurie Ferguson, chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade, said there was a lot of emotion in Australia after an Australian hostage was executed by Khmer Rouge guerrillas earlier this month in Cambodia.

Two other Western hostages were also executed after more than three months in captivity on Vine Mountain in Kampot.

"It's a national security problem that has existed in Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge is part of the problem that must be resolved by Cambodians themselves.

"We have enormous respect for Thailand's having provided shelter for thousands of refugees and we have great admiration for repatriation of the Cambodian refugees without any problems," Mr Ferguson said.

He and his delegation are visiting Thailand from November 18 to December 1. He was speaking to reporters after meeting Senate Speaker Michai Ruchuphan and members of the joint House committees on foreign and economic affairs.

Bob Halverson, deputy chairman of the joint committee, said his delegation had frank talks with Thai parliamentarians and that doubts over Thailand's continued links with the guerrillas had been "satisfactorily resolved".

"We'll return to Australia better informed on this sensitive issue than when we arrived (in Bangkok).

"During the past several weeks, our relations were not so good but I think they have improved a lot now," Mr Halverson said.

Relations between Bangkok and Canberra were soured with comments by Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans that the Thai Government was turning a blind eye to support for the Khmer Rouge along the border.

During the recent meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group in Jakarta, Senator Evans conceded that evidence he earlier claimed to have to back up his allegations was "outdated".

Senator Evans told his Thai counterpart, Thaksin Chinawat, who asked him to produce the evidence during a meeting in Jakarta, that he would return home and inform Australia's Parliament.

Mr Halverson said he could not speak on behalf of Thais but said "we've been assured that there was no link between Thai individuals and the Khmer Rouge".

He said he understood that Thailand shared common borders with Laos, Cambodia and Burma, which people "could move across quite freely for generations".

"We have no dilemma like this in our country," he said, since Australia is surrounded by sea.

The delegation called on several government leaders including Industry Minister Sanan Kachonprasat, Commerce Minister Uthai Pimchaichon, Mr Thaksin, University Affairs Minister Krasae Chanawong and National Security Council chief Gen Charan Kunlanit.

Cambodian Coup Leader Begins Fast To Win Bail

BK2511030294 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Nov 94 pp A1, A4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cambodian coup fugitive Gen Sin Song started a fast yesterday to further his demands that police grant him bail so that he can pursue his requests for asylum in a third country, according to an aide close to him.

Sin Song, who is being held in the Bangkok immigration detention centre, also demanded that the government allow him to communicate with embassies here.

The aide told THE NATION that Thai police had turned down the general's requests for bail without giving clear reasons, saying only that Thailand is waiting for Phnom Penh's verdict.

The general was recently arrested in Bangkok for illegal entry into the country. He had been sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment by a Cambodian military court in October for involvement in the failed July coup there.

The Cambodian government has demanded Sin Song's return, but Thailand has yet to decide whether he is eligible for third-country asylum provided for by international law.

Bangkok has requested a copy of the Cambodian court's verdict on Sin Song before making a final decision on whether to repatriate him or send him to a third country.

The aide said Sin Song's fast is aimed at the Thai government which has refused to grant him bail, making it seem as if they do not want him to go to a third country.

Normally someone seeking asylum in a country must go to that country's embassy and personally submit a request to embassy staff. "Therefore the general cannot do anything because he is still in detention. In addition, he has no ability to contact any embassies here," said the aide.

Gen Sin Song was quoted as saying that he understands the Thai position over refusing him bail, but he feels he should be allowed to contact embassies to pursue his requests for asylum.

The aide pointed out that Cambodia has taken a long time to send a copy of the verdict to Thailand. "It probably means Thailand is ready to wait for anywhere from 10 to 15 years if Cambodia fails to hand over the translated verdict," he said.

Sin Song has said he had nothing to do with the abortive coup in Cambodia in July and was sleeping in his house when he was arrested shortly after the coup attempt failed.

"It is strange that the Cambodian government has demanded only that I be sent back. It has said nothing

about Prince Norodom Chakkrapong who is also sentenced to 20 years in jail," said Sin Song.

Prince Chakkrapong was arrested after the coup failed but was sent into exile in Malaysia, and was later granted asylum in France.

Sin Song was quoted as saying he is ready to die in Thailand rather than be deported to Cambodia where he said he would certainly face a brutal death.

Most embassies contacted by the general's lawyer claimed they could not make a decision on his request until the Thai government reveals its position on how it will handle the general's case.

Editorial Decries U.S. 'Interference' in Cambodia

BK2511111794 Bangkok SIAM POST in Thai 25 Nov 94 p 4

[Editorial: "The New U.S. Role"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The whole world is keeping a close watch on the confusing maneuvers made by the United States in a bid to revive its military might in Southeast Asia. Apparently, the United States is placing itself in a position that violates the principle of human rights.

In the past, the United States has condemned China and the Burmese military regime for human rights violations in connection with the Tiananmen incident and the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi, respectively. Lately, it has brought pressure on Indonesian President Suharto over the disrespect for human rights in East Timor.

Ironically, the U.S. Government has agreed to send U.S. soldiers to help train the Cambodian armed forces to suppress the Khmer Rouge. Such an act, although at the request of the Cambodian Government, constitutes interference in Cambodia's internal political and military affairs.

Furthermore, the U.S. State Department has set up an office to conduct an investigation into the genocidal crimes committed during the war in Indochina and the civil war in Cambodia. This is one way to impose pressure on the Khmer Rouge leaders.

Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai told a news conference in late October about the Thai Government's decision to turn down a U.S. request to set up a floating arms depot in the Gulf of Thailand. On the same day he met at Government House with Admiral Richard [Macke], commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, and explained the reasons behind the decision.

The United States reasoned that the arms stockpile is necessary to maintain peace and stability and protect its allies in this region. The Thai leaders, however, do not want to create suspicion among the neighboring ASEAN countries. Moreover, the Thai Government has declared its adherence to a neutral foreign policy.

Touching on the internal rift in Cambodia, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said during the ASEAN foreign ministers meeting in July that the Thai Government disagreed with the idea of sending weapons to Cambodia but would welcome any plan to strengthen the Phnom Penh government's political stability to enable it to solve the country's internal problems.

It should be noted that apart from tremendous economic and trade interests, the United States has lost nearly all its influence and friends in Southeast Asia since it was defeated in the Vietnam war in 1975. Therefore, it is trying to revive friendly relations with these countries on the pretext of human rights.

At the same time, however, it is very unlikely that the United States will be able to gain the world community's appreciation for its human rights policy, because sending troops to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries runs counter to the principles of human rights and world peace.

Government Accepts 2020 Liberalization Target

BK2411050794 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Nov 94 p 11

[Report by Peter Ungphakon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand has officially told the Indonesian Government that it considers the 2020 deadline for trade and investment liberalisation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group to be a "target."

The notification was written and submitted immediately after the APEC summit in Bogor Indonesia, on Tuesday last week, by Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary Pracha Khunakasem, but details have only been revealed over the past week.

Commenting on the Bogor Declaration issued after the summit, it says: "The timeframe specified should be seen as the target for achieving free and open trade and investment in Asia-Pacific."

Some Thai officials closely involved in APEC affairs interpret the statement as a signal that Thailand shares Malaysia's view that the 2020 deadline is not binding even though both countries have promised to do their best to achieve the target.

Mr Pracha, however, would not confirm this interpretation yesterday. He said that Thailand's intention was to put on record that it considered itself to be a developing country and therefore to come under the 2020 timetable rather than the 2010 date set for industrialised countries.

The difference between the two interpretations underscores the different approaches advocated by different ministers, officials and agencies. The Foreign Ministry wants to avoid confrontation in APEC, while Government House and the Commerce Ministry want Thailand

to express its misgivings more actively because they believe that APEC liberalisation has not been thought out carefully enough.

Some Thai sources who are well-informed about what happened in Bogor say Indonesian President Suharto flatly refused to make any major changes to the declaration despite a number of concerns being aired in written comments on his earlier draft, and despite those concerns being discussed during the Bogor meeting.

All Thai sources, however stress that Thailand is happy to accept the 2020 target date for APEC's developing country-members.

Mr Pracha declined to reveal the wording of Thailand's statement. But he explained that the list is based on Prime Minister Chuan Likphai's comments during the discussions: "I gleaned it from what Mr Chuan said."

Mr Pracha was Mr Chuan's note-taker, observing proceedings on closed-circuit television in a separate room in the Bogor presidential palace.

However, a copy obtained by the BANGKOK POST shows that Thailand is also arguing the task of working out the details of the APEC liberalisation plan should be assigned to senior officials and ministers. It rejects the Bogor Declaration's call for APEC's "Eminent Persons Group" of economists and academics together with the private sector Pacific Business Forum to lead the way in drafting a liberalisation blueprint.

"The work plan should be the duty of ministers who are closely in touch with the implementation and therefore understand the limitations better," the Thai statement says.

The timetable adopted in Bogor is modified from the Eminent Persons Group's second report that was submitted to APEC in August, arousing some comment in Government House that the group has served as APEC's pace-setter on behalf of the members aggressively seeing liberalisation such as the United States and Australia.

During the APEC meetings last week, Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak repeatedly argued that ministers and officials are better-placed to work out details of the liberalisation plan.

The Bogor Declaration says that industrialised countries will liberalise faster, completing their market-opening by 2010.

Mr Pracha suggested that by making 2020 a target, Thailand is allowing itself greater "leeway" to complete liberalisation perhaps before 2020, but after 2010.

He gave a similar interpretation to the statement issued by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed immediately after the Bogor summit. Dr Mahathir said "the target dates of 2020 and 2010 are indicative dates and non-binding on (APEC members)". Mr Pracha said Malaysia was already farther down the road to free trade

than Thailand. He predicted that Malaysia would be able to open its markets to regional free trade and investment well before the 2020 deadline.

The foreign affairs permanent secretary was asked to comment on speculation that the Government might replace Thailand's current member of the Eminent Persons Group, Narongchai Akkharaserani, chief executive of General Finance and Securities Co. Mr Pracha replied: "As long as I am in this position there will be no change."

The Eminent Persons' Group was first appointed by APEC ministers at their annual meeting in Bangkok in 1992. Each government appointed one member. Speculation about Dr Narongchai's replacement has arisen because of a sharp difference between his almost unqualified support for APEC liberalisation and Dr Suphachai's concerns that APEC is moving too fast.

Thailand's statement takes the form of a list of seven "observations" on the Bogor Declaration that was issued by APEC leaders after the summit. It is one of at least three similar documents that have been handed over to this year's host Indonesia, with the intention that they be considered official documents of the summit.

He said that the APEC leaders agreed not to turn these documents into "annexes" attached to the Bogor Declaration. But speaking the day after the summit, Dr Mahathir described his country's reservations as an "annexure" to the declaration.

Among the additional points in the Thai statement are: for APEC liberalisation to "proceed in consonance" with the global agreements of the Uruguay Round of world trade talks and the new World Trade Organisation; for developed countries to narrow the gap with developing countries in APEC through technical cooperation, investment and technology transfer; for the elimination of trade and investment barriers to be undertaken gradually; and for agriculture and services liberalisation to be gradual and handled "with great care".

'Observations' on Bogor Declaration Submitted

*BK2411052994 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
24 Nov 94 p 11*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Immediately after the APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation] summit at Bogor, Indonesia, Thailand submitted this list of "observations" on the Bogor Declaration, requesting that it be regarded as an official APEC document from the summit. At least two other countries have submitted similar documents: Malaysia and the Philippines.

Thailand's Observations on the Bogor Declaration (to be included in the Official Document of the Conference):

1. The timeframe specified should be seen as the target for achieving free and open trade and investment in Asia-Pacific.

2. The goal is to achieve free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific, and not to create a free trade area. APEC must proceed in consonance with the decision of the Uruguay Round and the World Trade Organisation.

3. The declaration provides a general framework. Details and measures for implementation will be further worked out by senior officials and ministers and seriously carried out by them.

4. Recognising the differences in the level of development among member economies, and in order to bridge the gap between the different groups of economies and to achieve the goal of the Bogor Declaration, the developed economies should assist the developing economies in such areas as technical cooperation, capital and transfer of technology so as to supplement the latter's effort to achieve the declared goal.

5. The results of the work of the EPG (Eminent Persons' Group) and PBF (Pacific Business Forum) should be reported through the SOM (senior officials meeting)/APEC Ministers. The work plan should be the duty of ministers who are closely in touch with the implementation and therefore understand the limitations better.

6. The "elimination" of trade and investment barriers in the region should be done on a gradual basis.

7. Since the liberalisation in the agricultural and service sectors are new issues, APEC should proceed step by step and with great care.

Four-Nation Accord on Mekong River Use Reached

BK2511030594 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Nov 94 p A9

[Report by Khlomchit Chantharapanya and Kunlachada Chaiphiphat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam have cleared the last hurdle to the use of the mainstream Mekong River during the dry season and will initial a historic agreement next Monday on the management of the mighty river.

The four riparian states of the lower Mekong River basin agreed that use of the mainstream river during the dry season is permissible as long as it does not affect the average low flow downstream. Individual countries will have jurisdiction over the use of water in tributaries within their borders.

The four countries have been negotiating a framework for the sensitive issue of use of the water in the Mekong for purposes such as irrigation, hydropower generation, navigation, flood control, fisheries, transportation of timber and tourism.

Thailand's plans to divert water from the Mekong for irrigation and power generation raised fears among the

other countries that this will reduce the water level and affect tidal flows downstream.

According to a senior official in the Mekong Secretariat, the sticking point about the use of the mainstream river during the dry season, which has held up the agreement for three years, is now resolved.

The four countries agreed to "inform" the others, but not seek permission, when planning to divert water from the mainstream, where it flows within their borders, during the dry season. This would ensure the average low flow of the river at control points was maintained.

Vietnam previously called for upstream countries to notify and obtain agreement from the Mekong Committee if they wanted to use the water during the dry season. Thailand, on the other hand, felt this constituted interference with national sovereignty.

"It was made less sensitive by adding details on what 'to inform' means. So they have now reached a common understanding," said the official, who did not wish to be identified.

He added that technicians would still have to determine where the control points would be and what the average low flow should be.

Under the new agreement, a Mekong River Commission will be formed to formulate policies and decisions on the development of the river basin through the Basin Development Plan. It will replace the Interim Mekong Committee, originally set up as the Mekong Committee in 1957.

The Mekong Secretariat is expected to undergo slight changes in organization and structure, but will still serve as the technical arm of the new commission.

Thaksin Claims 'Measures' To Deal With Khoja

BK2411035694 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Nov 94 pp A1, A4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Foreign Ministry has prepared "suitable" measures to deal with outspoken Saudi Charge d'Affaires Mohammed Said Khoja if he continues criticizing the Thai authorities' retrieval of stolen Saudi gems, Foreign Minister Thaksin Chinnawat said yesterday.

When asked about measures that could be taken against Khoja, Thaksin said diplomatic protocol has two methods, an "iron fist or velvet gloves". But according to ministry officials, expulsion or transfer of undisciplined diplomats are considered the harshest diplomatic actions.

The minister first declined to reveal what would entail if Khoja did not comply with the Foreign Ministry's request to stop talking to the press and cease criticizing government agencies concerned in the protracted case.

Then later in a separate interview he said the transfer of a diplomat was one of numerous diplomatic actions, but denied it was included in the ministry's options. According to the officials, the ministry will consult Prime Minister Chuan Likphai as to which action to take against Khoja.

Government Spokesman Aphisit Wetchachiwa yesterday said he was unaware of the measure in question but will consider whether it was possible under Thai diplomatic laws.

"Khoja may be just a little bit too spoiled," Thaksin said yesterday.

Thaksin sparked a fresh round of verbal exchange with Khoja on Monday when he told the press he would ask Khoja to keep silent.

In response, Khoja on Tuesday challenged the Foreign Ministry to send him back to Saudi Arabia if it wanted him to stop talking.

Khoja also said he would not allow Thaksin to climb on the back of Saudi Arabia just to please the opposition parties. "If he (Khoja) makes appropriate and helpful statements, that is fine. But if he makes unacceptable statements then we must warn him," Thaksin said.

Thaksin said Thailand was a sovereign state with its own legal process and justice system, and outsiders should not try to dictate what Thailand should do.

Khoja was recently quoted as saying his country wanted at least 100 pieces of jewellery returned. He has also said he would be satisfied if the Thai police retrieved just the most valuable pieces.

It is still unclear what caused Thaksin to get upset and react so angrily, and it is quite unprecedented for a foreign minister to aim such harsh criticism at a foreign diplomat.

The House Committee for Foreign Affairs suggested the Foreign Ministry pursue full authorization to send Khoja back to Saudi Arabia and considers it a suitable solution for Thaksin.

Deputy Minister Returns From Latin America Tour

BK2511094694 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Thailand and Mexico have agreed to form a joint commission to promote economic, trade, and investment ties between the two countries. The agreement was reached during the visit to Mexico early this week by Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan as part of his week-long tour of Latin America.

Mr. Surin met and held talks with Mexico's Deputy Foreign Minister (Antonio de Icaza) and Deputy Commerce and Industrial Promotion Minister (Jamilio Blanco). Realizing that both countries are members of

the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, or APEC, they agreed to step up bilateral cooperation, and Mexico would serve as coordinator between Latin America and Southeast Asia.

Negotiations will be held on the avoidance of double taxation between the two countries. Mexico would consider lifting its ban on Thai rice import soon as it is satisfied with the quality of Thai rice following an inspection by Mexican experts who visited Thailand early this month. As a result, Thailand stands a good chance to export 50,000 tons of rice next year to that country. Thailand was also told that Mexican business people are interested in undertaking joint ventures with their Thai counterparts in petrochemical, car parts, electronics, textile, gems and jewelry and furniture industry, as well as shrimp farming.

Indonesian Embassy Clarifies East Timor Issue

BK2411082794 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Nov 94 p A6

[From the "Letters" Column]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government of the Republic of Indonesia is pleased to inform news agencies and media circles in Thailand that the demonstration in Jakarta which was timed to coincide with the holding of the 1994 Apec [Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation] leaders' meetings, clearly constituted a provocation intended to embarrass the government of Indonesia at a time when it was engrossed in an activity that was vital to regional and global stability and prosperity.

The action by the demonstrators was an unfortunate attempt to distract attention from the important achievements of the Apec ministerial meetings. Such an activity and the attendant publicity based on false reports that the Portuguese government always tries to disseminate, do nothing to help resolve the East Timor issue.

In this case, the Indonesian government would like to emphasize that contrary to reports made by elements of the international press and further disseminated by the government of Portugal, there has not been a riot in Dili. What happened was an outbreak of violence of a personal nature as a result of a quarrel between traders, one from Sulawesi and one from East Timor, which resulted in the unfortunate death of one person. A small group of people, however, have tried to hoist the incident as a political demonstration.

Moreover, it is not true that 41 people, as claimed by the Portuguese government, were detained after the demonstration in Jakarta. The number of demonstrators in this case is 36 and since they had no money for food and shelter, they were provided with food and drinks, as well as a bus to take them back to East Timor where they are residents.

As to the 29 demonstrators who are now inside the US embassy compound, it would be absolutely unnecessary for them to seek asylum, as they are not being persecuted and the Indonesian government has given assurances that they will not be arrested. They are free to leave the country, if they so wish and if any country is willing to receive them.

In the face of such agitation and propaganda activities, the government of Indonesia will not be distracted from its work in international forums and its development work in East Timor. Indonesia remains committed to achieving an internationally acceptable settlement to the East Timor problem. Under the auspices of the UN secretary-general, we are engaged in a dialogue with Portugal in a common search for such a solution, which we believe can only be achieved through dialogue, negotiations and confidence building measures and not through the publicity stunts that Indonesia's detractors have consistently resorted to.

Mrs. Sri Rahayu Purnomo, Minister Counsellor, Information Section, Indonesian Embassy

Vietnam

Vo Van Kiet Receives Francophone Press Delegates

BK2411122894 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received at noon at the government office on 22 November the delegates to the 26th Francophone Press Congress held in Hanoi from 21-23 November.

On behalf of the government and people of Vietnam, Vo Van Kiet warmly welcomed the delegates and wished the congress fine success. He expressed the hope that the congress would further consolidate the cooperation between francophone journalists, and therefore contribute further to the friendly relations and mutual understanding between the peoples of francophone countries.

The prime minister hailed the Vietnamese press for actively participating over the years in efforts to promote socioeconomic development and cooperation between Vietnam and the outside world as well as promoting peace, stability, and constructive cooperation among the nations of the world.

The prime minister expressed the hope that Vietnamese journalists would continue to receive assistance from their colleagues, including those in the francophone press circle.

On behalf of the journalists attending the congress, the president of the International Union of Journalists and Press of the French Language, Rene Duval, expressed his gratitude to the Vietnamese Government for having created conditions allowing the congress to be held in

Vietnam. He also thanked Vo Van Kiet for giving the delegates a friendly and cordial audience.

Minister at Development Conference in France

BK2411082594 Hanoi VNA in English 0704 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 24—Minister Dau Ngoc Xuan, chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment, attended an international conference on cooperation in infrastructure development in Vietnam held in Paris, France, on Nov. 21-22.

The conference, chaired by consultancy giant Cooper and Lybrand, drew the participation of representatives of 50 financial, banking and industrial groups and leading investors.

The participants focussed their discussion on investment [and] cooperation forms, especially Building-Operation-Transfer (BOT) contracts, for projects on infrastructural construction in Vietnam.

Foreign investors also discussed at length with the Vietnamese officials on projects relating to construction of a number of hydro- electric power plants, bridges, water supply stations, waste treatment factories and the Vung Tau port.

Delegation Attends French Socialist Party Congress

BK2311161894 Hanoi VNA in English 1255 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 23—A delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam led by Le Duc Binh, member of the party Central Committee, attended the French Socialist Party's (SPF) congress held in Lieuvin (France) from Nov. 18-20.

While there, the Vietnamese delegation had contacts with other foreign delegations to the congress, and met with Mr. H. Emmanuelli, SPF first secretary. It also had a working session with Mr. G. Furch, SPF secretary in charge of external relations.

Deputy Premier Receives Cambodian Special Envoy

BK2411151194 Hanoi VNA in English 1426 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 24—Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong received here this afternoon Mr Nhim Vanda, cabinet [word indistinct] and special envoy of the two premiers of Cambodia, responsible for timber inspection.

During the reception, the Cambodian envoy spoke of the results of the working sessions of his mission with the responsible agencies of Vietnam on the transportation of Cambodia's transit goods, particularly timber, via Vietnam. He thanked Vietnam for creating favourable

conditions for Cambodia, and expressed his wish to join Vietnam in settling outstanding problems.

Speaking to his guest, Deputy P.M. Luong said the Vietnamese Government and people have always attached importance to the friendship and solidarity between the two countries. Vietnam, he said, is ready to discuss with Cambodia to solve outstanding issues on the basis of mutual respect, trust and understanding and assistance in line with the tradition and interests of the two countries. He stressed Vietnam with constructive manner and goodwill always creates favourable conditions for Cambodia to transport its transit goods through Vietnam in accordance with international laws and practices.

Cambodian Customs Delegation Arrives for Talks

*BK2311160494 Hanoi VNA in English 1544 GMT
23 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi Nov. 23—A delegation of Cambodian General Department of Customs led by its General Director Sar Ho has arrived here for an working visit to Vietnam.

The delegation had working sessions with the Vietnam Customs. The two sides affirmed their common desire to continue to closely coordinate their work with a view to facilitating import and export activities between the two countries, actively fighting against smuggling across the border on the basis of respecting each country's laws and international laws. The two sides also agreed that if there is any problem arised they will work together to settle it in the spirit of friendship and mutual respect.

The Cambodian Customs delegation will continue visiting and working with a number of Customs units.

DPRK Military Delegation Concludes Visit

*BK2411074094 Hanoi VNA in English 0651 GMT
24 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 24—The military delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) left here yesterday, concluding a six-day official visit to Vietnam.

While here, the delegation, led by Vice Marshal Choe Kwang, Politburo member of the Korean Workers' Party (KWP) Central Committee, acting minister of armed forces and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, paid a floral tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum and was received by General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Do Muoi.

The delegation held talks with Vietnamese senior officers and toured a number of military and administrative institutions in various localities including Ho Chi Minh City.

Deputy Premier To Chair Committee on AIDS

*BK2511065594 Hanoi VNA in English 0633 GMT
25 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 25—The prime minister on Nov. 23 appointed Deputy Prime

Minister Nguyen Khanh president of the National AIDS Committee instead of Mr. Nguyen Trong Nhan, minister of public health, who is now standing vice president.

Mr. Pham Gia Khiem, vice chairman of the State Planning Committee and Mr. Le Dien Hong, head of the Department for Hygiene and Anti-Epidemics under the Health Ministry, were appointed vice presidents of the committee.

The prime minister also designated Ms. Nguyen Thi Hang, vice minister of labour, war invalids and social affairs; Tran Xuan Nhi, vice minister of education and training; Vo Thi Thang, vice president of the Vietnam Women's Union as members of a Standing Department of the National AIDS Committee.

According to the latest report, 1,982 people 79 foreigners included have been tested HIV-positive in Vietnam. Of these people, 828 have developed AIDS and 48 have died. HIV carriers were found inhabiting in 34 out of the total 54 provinces and cities of the country.

Foreign Investment in Ho Chi Minh City Reviewed

*BK2511082494 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 25 Nov 94*

[Report from "Vietnam's Economy" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Investment projects in Vietnam have drawn many foreign investors. Ho Chi Minh City is one of those major centers with the most favorable investment environment in Vietnam.

In the last six years, 200 foreign investment projects have been granted licenses in Ho Chi Minh City with the total investment capital of \$2,600 million. At present, 27 countries have invested in Vietnam, topping the list of investors is Taiwan with 63 investment projects then comes Hong Kong with 61 projects.

The areas of investment include industry, accounting for 40 percent; construction, 30 percent; tourism and other services, 30 percent with transport and agriculture a little bit lower. In 1993, 95 foreign investment projects were granted licenses in Ho Chi Minh City with the total investment capital of \$1,300 million, an increase of 15 percent in term of the number of investment projects and 2.5 times in term of investment capital.

Worthy of note is that more and more major investment projects with capital of more than \$200 million each have been seen in Ho Chi Minh City. They include the Hiep Phuc Power Plant, Northern Nha Be Motor Road, and the Binh Chanh Light Industrial Center.

In all, the number of investment projects licensed in Ho Chi Minh City account for 42 percent of the total investment projects in Vietnam. Foreign investment

projects have brought to Vietnam new and modern technologies, providing jobs for 25,000 people in the city. Tens of thousands of temporary jobs have been created concerning material production and transport and services.

In 1994, Ho Chi Minh City is expected to extract \$1.5 billion in foreign investment. It will cover infrastructure, including the system of transport, roads, ports, airports, communications, and in commodity production for export and expansion of industrial centers and construction of export processing zones.

However, the human factor plays an important role. It is urgent for training of staff and managers who are efficiently qualified in economic management and knowledge to apply high technologies in production.

Regulations Approved for Trade Inspection

*BK2411123094 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 23 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Trade Minister Le Van Triet has signed a document stipulating regulations on the inspection of several import and export products. Items to be inspected before exploitation now include crude oil, coal, rice coffee, tea, ground nuts, rubber, fresh and processed foodstuffs, including sea products, sliced cassava, textile, and garments for markets other than the European Union. Import items to undergo inspection include petroleum and oil, fertilizer, electrical and electronic appliances, foodstuffs, beverage, machinery and equipment, spare parts, steel, and others. The actual inspection will cover criteria such as quality, quantity, specifications, packaging, wrapping, hygienic status, value, delivery conditions, and preservation.

Australia

Evans Views Indonesia's Decision on East Timor

*BK2511063494 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 25 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia has expressed disappointment that Indonesia had reportedly ruled out self-rule for East Timor. Australia's foreign minister, Gareth Evans says he strongly urged the Indonesian Government to reconsider the issue of special status for East Timor.

The foreign minister's comments follow talks in Jakarta last week between Indonesia's President Suharto and the United States President Bill Clinton.

Following that meeting, Indonesian officials said that President Suharto had ruled out giving the former Portuguese colony more control over its own affairs. Senator Evans told Indonesia Conference in Canberra that if the reports of President Suharto's comments were true, they were inconsistent with accounts given by other Indonesian ministers.

The opposition spokesman for foreign affairs, Peter Reith, said Jakarta had failed to reconcile the people of East Timor to their incorporation into Indonesia. He said Indonesia's new and activist foreign policy stance would be hurt if the East Timor issue was not resolved.

Praises Decision on Embassy Protestors

*BK2511061494 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 25 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's foreign affairs minister, Gareth Evans, says he applauds the decision by Indonesia to allow demonstrators from the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta to fly to Portugal. The 29 protesters occupied the embassy for 12 days, beginning their protest at the start of the recent Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

Senator Evans says Australia had been concerned about the prospect of some maltreatment of the demonstrators and applaud Indonesia's decision to let the students go to Portugal. However, Sen. Evans stressed he is still concerned about those who have not been heard of since they were detained in Jakarta as well those detained in Dili.

The foreign minister said he hoped Indonesia will apply the same spirit of moderation to those who had been detained.

Russian Envoy Accuses ASIO of 'Witchhunt'

*BK2311071894 Hong Kong AFP in English 0602 GMT
23 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Canberra, Nov 23 (AFP)—Australia's secret intelligence agency was accused here Wednesday of a witchhunt against one of its own

employees in an attempt to falsely prove he had been recruited as a Soviet mole. The accusation came from Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Losyukov following the Australian Director of Public Prosecutions' decision Tuesday to drop espionage charges against George Sadil, a former officer of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO).

"I think it is kind of a witchhunt that was going on and Mr. Sadil was a victim of such a witchhunt within the ASIO ranks," Losyukov said in a radio interview. A committal hearing by a Canberra magistrate in March had found Sadil had a case to answer on the espionage charges.

Sadil, a Russian language translator with ASIO for 25 years, is to plead guilty to lesser charges of removing secret documents dealing with the restructuring of ASIO, Australia's domestic intelligence agency closely modelled on Britain's MI5. He had admitted taking the documents, but said his intention was only to study them at home because of their implications for his own future employment.

Sadil indicated through his lawyers on Tuesday that he intended to seek compensation for the costs of defending himself against the spying charge as well as the resulting stress and loss of income when he resigned from ASIO. He also told reporters he was "very much relieved" by the decision to drop the espionage charges, saying he had always been an anti-communist and had been "devastated" by the charges.

The Russian ambassador told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. that he welcomed the decision not to press ahead with the espionage charges. He acknowledged that there had been intelligence operatives in many Soviet embassies during the Cold War.

"I am absolutely not denying that there was that kind of activity that was going on everywhere, and obviously the KGB was probably doing something like that in Australia too," Losyukov said. However, he said times had changed and the aim now was to improve economic and other relations with Australia.

Government Dismisses Claims of Spying in Iran

*LD2411134094 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0900 GMT 24 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Australian Government has dismissed claims that Australia's ambassador to Iran is a spy. Iran's KEYHAN newspaper has accused Ambassador Nicholas Warner in Tehran of spying, saying he drove to a military zone in the desert east of the capital. The newspaper has called on Iran's Foreign Ministry to expel Mr. Warner. An Australian diplomat in Iran dismissed the charges as fictional saying Mr. Warner received permission from Iran's Foreign Ministry for a recreational day trip to an area east of Tehran. The office of Australia's Foreign Minister Gareth Evans says Mr. Warner advised the Iranian Government he would be

travelling in the area. The office says Mr. Warner had taken a different route than the one he had specified and later became bogged in the military zone in the Semnan Desert. The KEYHAN newspaper has alleged that Mr. Warner entered the military zone with plans to spy.

New Zealand

Further on Visit by Singapore Prime Minister

Bolger, Goh Discuss APEC

BK2311100394 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 23 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Bertha Henson in Wellington]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Singapore and New Zealand will do their part to smoothen the road to Osaka where next year's APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] meetings will be held by spelling out way in advance their positions on the blueprint for free trade in the Asia-Pacific area.

Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, here to begin a four-day official visit to New Zealand, said yesterday that the two countries would give the host Japan early indication of their views.

Both he and New Zealand Premier Jim Bolger acknowledged at a joint press conference that the Japanese would have a difficult task translating the Bogor Declaration into a workable blueprint.

The declaration provides for a two-track route towards free trade in the region grouping 18 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation member economies: developed nations by 2010 and developing nations by 2020.

"As usual, the devil is in the details," said Mr. Goh.

"We would want to formulate our own thoughts on what the blueprint should be like...and hopefully coordinate our positions and express our views to the Japanese way before Osaka," he said.

Added Mr. Bolger: "We recognise that while we are both small in terms of population, we can provide some assistance in the broader APEC objective... We would want to help where we can to bring the details of the blueprint into focus so that we can as a group of nations find our way forward."

The two leaders, who had emerged from their meeting where APEC was the main topic of discussion, expressed confidence that the political commitment made by APEC leaders at Bogor last week would strengthen and not wane in the coming years.

Mr. Goh said: "As far as the leaders are concerned, the direction is clear, the road is clear, we just have to get around the bumps."

While he could not give figures on increased trade flows that would follow, he noted that the North American Free Trade Agreement saw a 20 to 30 percent jump in trade the day tariffs were brought down.

Pointing to another spin-off of APEC, Mr. Bolger said that as countries worked together to enhance each other's prosperity, "security issues become much less of an issue."

Asked if differences in views about linking labour and environmental standards to trade would hinder the APEC process, he said that the issue would have to be managed carefully given that APEC countries were at varying stages of economic development.

His worry was that countries were pushing for such links to protect their own markets against low-cost competitors.

There were genuine concerns such as child labour, "but I am not sure that using trade to address those issues is the right way to go," said Mr. Bolger.

Agreeing, Mr. Goh said he did not expect these issues to figure greatly in the Osaka meetings, which will focus on measures to promote freer trade.

"They are important, but they will not be allowed to upset what we hope to agree on at the next meeting," he said.

Mr. and Mrs. Goh and the rest of the Singapore delegation, which included a business team, were later hosted to lunch by Mr. Bolger. [passage omitted]

Goh on Regional Economic Goals

BK2411120594 Singapore Radio One in English 1100 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Asians are having a once-in-their-lifetime opportunity to climb out of their poverty and countries like Singapore and New Zealand should go all out to help them develop.

Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said this in a dinner speech in Auckland today. Noting the exceptional performances of countries like China and Indonesia, Mr. Goh said there is a need to speed up their integration into the global economy.

He said Singapore and New Zealand have the resources, capital, technology, marketing skills, and know-how to do it. Both economies, in turn, stand to gain by riding on the growth of these countries.

He said Singapore is actively engaging itself in the growth of Asia and its businessmen are beginning to expand beyond ASEAN, especially into China, India, Vietnam, and Myanmar [Burma].

Mr. Goh pointed out that the business opportunities in Asia are vast and wide-ranging, and the businessmen from Singapore and New Zealand can jointly tap them.

He said joint ventures will be an especially good formula for small and medium enterprises.

The prime minister noted that as two small economies, Singapore and New Zealand have to trade with others to create jobs and raise the people's standard of living, and they do not need to be persuaded to embrace free trade. He noted that the Bogor Declaration was a reaffirmation

by APEC leaders that the way to peace and prosperity is by nations' trading freely between one another.

The dinner hosted by the ASEAN-New Zealand Business Council and Asia 2000 Foundation is the last event in the prime minister's four-day official visit to New Zealand.

Mr. Goh will stay on there for an unofficial visit till the end of the month.

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